MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 MARCH 1982

Libya

U.S. military maneuvers in Libyan territorial waters will lead to a third world war because the Libyan people have decided to turn the Gulf of Sidra "red with the blood of the invaders" and their own blood if the U.S. administration "in its folly" should act upon its "arrogant and provocative" announcement, a Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland commentary declared.

Israel

The Military Government has disbanded the Municipal Council of Al-Birah for refusing on 15 March to meet with Civil Administration head Menahem Milson, Jerusalem radio's English service reported. A Defense Ministry spokesman said the council's refusal to cooperate with the Civil Administration had harmed the town's interests, and the council was dissolved to ensure municipal services to the residents. However, in remarks carried by the radio the town's elected mayor called the move a step to impose the Civil Administration and the autonomy plan. In protest against the takeover of the municipality by Israeli officials, the large municipalities of Judaea and Samaria decided to strike for 3 days beginning 19 March, Jerusalem radio reported. Almost all West Bank mayors have refrained from discussing official municipal business with Milson and the Civil Administration, the Jerusalem POST noted on 16 March.

Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon said the council had to be disbanded because both the mayor and the council members put a foreign political matter ahead of their town's welfare, Jerusalem radio reported. It also noted the view of Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj that the disbandment will increase tension in the territories and indicates the authorities' desire to divest the Arab inhabitants of any right to conduct their own affairs.

PLO

Statement on Council Dissolution -- A PLO Executive Committee statement broadcast by the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio described the disbanding of the Al-Birah Council as part of a larger scheme to strike at all other municipal councils in the West Bank and Gaza in an attempt to destroy the people's absolute rejection of the Civil Administration, which is designed to veil the "hateful occupation." Calling the boycott of the Civil Administration a "heroic uprising," the Executive Committee expressed confidence that enemy schemes will only increase Palestinian determination to confront the occupation.

Comment on West Bank Leagues -- In an interview carried by the Voice of Palestine, Fatah Central Committee member Khalil al-Wazir said the Palestinian people and history will show no mercy to those who have linked themselves with the village leagues, which represent the "tools of the enemy's intelligence bodies." Noting that during his latest meetings in Amman he discussed the need to take practical measures against the leagues, Al-Wazir described the Jordanian decision to punish league members as "important," but stressed that the basic thing is the leagues' isolation by the people.

Egypt

Border Dispute -- An AL-JUMHURIYAH editorial stressed that the Egyptian-Israeli differences over border demarcation will not delay the Sinai withdrawal for a single hour, and added that Israel is aware that Egypt's borders are sacred and cannot be tampered with even to the extent of 1 inch. In a conversation reported by Israel's YEDI'OT AHARONOT, Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali told the paper that he felt "frustrated and uneasy" at the end of his talks in Israel, adding that failure to resolve the border dispute could boomerang first and foremost against Israel.

Jerusalem Stand -- Egypt has informed Israel that President Husni Mubarak's refusal to visit Jerusalem is not connected with normalization but with Egypt's principled stand on the city, an AL-MUSAWWAR article summarized by MENA stated. The magazine lists the bases for Egypt's position: 1) Anwar as-Sadat did not go to Jerusalem after it was declared the Israeli capital. 2) Egypt rejected the Israeli declaration. 3) Egypt insisted that the documents ratifying the peace treaty be exchanged in a U.S. early warning station and not in Jerusalem. 4) All Israeli-Egyptian talks were held in Herzliyya or Tel Aviv in line with Egypt's stand on Jerusalem. 5) Egypt is anxious to ensure that the Mubarak visit causes no difficulties for normalization and peace, but holds that the Jerusalem issue is still a subject for negotiations, even in the autonomy talks where Egypt insists on the Jerusalem Arabs' right to vote in the autonomy institutions.

Syria

All signs point to a "U.S. scheme to explode" the Middle East situation via Israel and other agents, AL-BA'TH contended in an article summarized by SANA. The scheme may begin in Lebanon, end up in the Sidra Gulf and serve as a prelude for the next phase of the Camp David plot, the paper said. A Damascus radio commentary maintained that the Arab sides that are ready to recognize Israel are hoping for Mubarak's return to the Arab fold, which will make it possible to expand the circle of plotting against those Arab states which confront Camp David. But the Arab nation will not allow Camp David to be redeemed at the expense of Arab causes and will accept the return only of an Egypt of the people, not an Egypt of As-Sadat and his heir Mubarak, the commentary stressed.

Lebanon

The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported that Lebanese Front Forces escalated military preparations in the eastern area during 16-17 March, putting Phalangist Party militias on alert and recalling conscripts to the contact lines. "Zionist experts" are supervising the building of fortifications and the deployment of tanks and artillery, the radio claimed, and scores of trucks have been seen carrying ammunition and supplies. The National Movement has decided to prepare to confront any Phalangist flareup, the radio noted.

Iraq

Report on Reactor -- In a study requested by the French Government, top-ranking French scientists concluded that the Iraqi nuclear reactor that France offered to help rebuild could be used to produce nuclear weapons, AFP reported.

Husayn Message -- Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's 17 March message to Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure proposed that the Good Offices Committee form a factfinding committee to determine which side was responsible for the Iranian-Iraqi war, INA revealed.

Consular Office Arson -- According to SANA, the Beirut paper AS-SAFIR reported that the Lebanese consular office in Baghdad was set on fire.

Iran

Villagers in Kordestan's Kamyaran District killed 30 counterrevolutionaries who attacked their village, according to an IRNA report cited by Tehran radio. During the past "Iranian month" 34 Mojahedin-e Khalq members and 40 supporters were arrested in Shiraz and 5 members were killed, Shiraz radio reported.

Afghanistan

Clashes broke out between soldiers of two army divisions near Kabul on 17 March and aircraft intervened in the fighting, according to a Mulsim resistance fighter in Peshawar cited by AFP.

FBIS DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS

Middle East and Africa

Vol V No 054 *19 March 1982*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

PLO Statement on Disbanding of Al-Birah Council [VOP] A 1
Khalil Al-Wazir Interview on Village Leagues [VOP] A 2
Salvadoran Guerrilla Leader Ends Talks With PLO [AFP] A 4

ARABIAN PENINSULA

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC 'Considering' Cutting Off Aid to Syria C 1
[London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 18 Mar]
As-Sabah Denies GCC Diplomatic Interest in East [WAKH] C 1

BAHRAIN

Amir Receives Message From PDRY Chairman C 2

KUWAIT

Minister on Security Agreement With Saudi Arabia [AL-QABAS 17 Mar] C 2

SAUDI ARABIA

Ulema Call Al-Qadhdhafi 'Tyrant,' 'Heretic' C 3

YAR

President Raps U.S. Buildup in Middle East [KYODO] C 4

EGYPT

82d Airborne Contingent Arrives in Sinai D 1
Fijian Unit Arrives; Italians Send Minesweepers D 1
AL-JUMHURIYAH on Border Disputes, Withdrawal [19 Mar] D 1
AL-MUSAWWAR on Mubarak's Jerusalem Stand [19 Mar] D 1
AS-SIYASAH Interviews Muslim Brotherhood Leader [Kuwait 16 Mar] D 2
AS-SIYASAH Interviews NPUG Chairman Muhyi ad-Din [Kuwait 14 Mar] D 4

JORDAN

AD-DUSTUR: Ibrahim Condemns Al-Birah Disbandment [19 Mar] F 1
Husayn Speaks at Potash Factory Inauguration F 1
Briefs: Ambassadors Appointed; Ambassador to Saudi Arabia; F 2
Nonresident Ambassadors; Two Ambassadors Sworn In;
PETRA-JNA Transmitter

SYRIA

Al-Asad Receives DFLP's Hawatimah 18 Mar H 1
Al-Asad Receives Algerian Envoy, Message H 1
Syrian Youths Demonstrate Near Golan Villages H 1
TISHRIN Criticizes Calls Supporting Egypt H 2
Ba'th Party, MPRP Issue Joint Statement H 2

ISRAEL

Egypt's Foreign Minister Assesses Talks [YEDI'OT AHARONOT 18 Mar] I 1
Arab Paper Supports Egypt's Stand on Jerusalem I 2
Ben-Me'ir Comments on Egypt's Autonomy Goal I 2
Four New Sinai Border Stations Reported [POST 19 Mar] I 2
U.S. Spokesman Defines Cease-Fire Violation I 2
Arens To Return for Consultations Early April [DAVAR 18 Mar] I 3
Sharon Emphasizes Importance of Settlements [POST 19 Mar] I 3
Military Government Reported Expropriating Land [HA'ARETZ 18 Mar] I 3
'Anabta, Qalqilyah Mayors Questioned, Released I 3
New Al-Birah Municipal Council Appointed I 4
Defense Spokesman Comments I 4
W. Bank Mayors React I 4
Sharon Comments I 5
Al-Birah, Ramallah Closed to Journalists I 5
Judaea, Samaria Towns To Begin 3-Day Strike I 5
Strike Begins I 5
Distribution of E. Jerusalem Papers Banned 19 Mar I 6
Reasons Given I 6
Drori Comments on Druze Workers, Identity Cards I 6
Peres Criticizes Golan Heights Measures I 6
Four Druze Imprisoned for Beating ID Cardholder I 6

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

APS: U.S. Maneuvers Aim at Destabilizing Libya Q 1
Ben Yahia Cites Support for Mexican Peace Plan [ASH-SHA'B 9 Mar] Q 1

LIBYA

U.S. Could Provoke Bloodshed in Gulf of Sidra Q 1
U.S. Maneuvers Denounced Q 2
Iran Pledges Support Against U.S. Aggression Q 3
Al-Qadhdhafi Asks Kreisky To Mediate With U.S. Q 3
[London AL-MAJALLAH 20-26 Mar]
Colonel al-Qadhdhafi Meets With Students 18 Mar Q 4

MOROCCO

Boucetta Lauds Expulsion of Saharan Delegation Q 4
Hassan Receives Tunisia's Mzali, Praises Ties Q 5
Tunisian Minister on Nuclear Project With Kuwait [KUNA] Q 6
Briefs: Uranium Production Q 6

CENTRAL AFRICA

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Regime Emerges Stronger From Patasse Episode [AFP] S 1

CHAD

Kamougue Suggests Political Solution to Crisis [AFP] S 2

CONGO

Minister on Senegal Expulsion of SDAR Delegates [AFP] S 3

WEST AFRICA

GHANA

Commentary Views Agrarian Underdevelopment T 1

GUINEA-BISSAU

Presidential Election Announced for 9 May T 3
Government Upgrades PLO Status to Embassy Level T 4
[Voice of Palestine]

SOUTHERN AFRICA

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Describes Western Economic Blockade U 1

SOUTH AFRICA

Prime Minister Reacts to Kaunda Offer To Talk U 2
Trade Agreement With Zimbabwe Extended U 2

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Offers To Meet With Botha, Cabinet [AFP] U 2
South African Incursion Into Angola Condemned [AFP] U 3
Kaunda Addresses Clergymen on Party Direction U 3

PLO STATEMENT ON DISBANDING OF AL-BIRAH COUNCIL

NC181530 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1315 GMT 18 Mar 82

[18 March PLO Executive Committee Political statement]

[Text] The Zionist occupation authorities have taken a serious measure in disbanding the Municipal Council of the city of Al-Birah and appointing a military governor to run its municipal affairs. This step comes after a series of measures taken by the occupation authorities to liquidate the national institutions in the occupied area, particularly those which have been elected by our people, in order to strike at our people's unity, leadership and institutions, which unanimously declared their opposition to the occupation and its tools and forms, primarily the civil administration plan and all the formulas to embellish occupation.

The disbanding of the Al-Birah Municipal Council is part of a larger scheme aimed at striking at the roles of all the other municipal councils in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and at imposing direct military rule as a substitute.

In the past week, the enemy formed a military committee to impose custodianship over the funds of the Nabulus Municipal Council as a prelude to measures that will affect its powers and role as well as all other municipal councils. These Zionist steps expose fully the Zionist enemy's plot, foremost of which is the Sharon plan to establish a civilian administration in the occupied land. All these plans are merely a coverup for the continuation of the hateful occupation, the imposition of all forms of military rule and the continuation of the policy of setting up settlements, striking at the nationalist institutions and resorting to other measures aimed at perpetuating the occupation. Thus, the repressive image of the Zionist enemy and the ugly face of the civilian administration plan are exposed. These measures reveal the enemy's total impotence to cover his actual plan by these suspect methods and schemes.

The enemy is trying to destroy the people's heroic uprising which has continued for 4 continuous months since the appointment of Menahem Milson as head of the civilian administration. This expresses our people's absolute rejection of this conspiratorial plan aimed at veiling the occupation of our homeland, Zionist expansion and continuation of settlements in various forms.

Under this alleged civilian administration, educational establishments were attacked, Bi'r Zayt University was closed, a number of social bodies and trade unions were attacked and fire was opened on helpless people in Bethlehem, Nabulus and the camps, where a number of people were injured.

Our great people reject with absolute firmness the civilian administration. The enemy appointed a Zionist committee headed by an officer from the military rule as a substitute for the legitimate Municipal Council for the city of Al-Birah. This is a definite indication of our people's firmness in confronting the subterfuge of the civilian administration and its inability to survive through the comprehensive people's boycott. In addition to this, our heroic and steadfast people have dealt a blow to the village leagues, particularly after a number of members announced their withdrawal. This withdrawal was another blow to the plans of Sharon, who depended on these leagues as a first pillar and the civilian administration as a second in supporting his crimes.

While addressing a greeting of struggle to our valiant masses, their national institutions and the members of Al-Birah Municipal Council led by brother struggler Ibrahim at-Tawil for their firm stand against occupation and its schemes -- a stand which received comprehensive support from the municipalities and institutions in all the occupied areas as well as from all our people inside and outside the occupied homeland -- the PLO Executive Committee is confident that the measures taken by the enemy will only increase our people's determination to confront the occupation and foil its schemes and to escalate the uprising against these serious measures in order to protect the municipal institutions against other measures which the occupation is planning to take.

By their valiant uprising, our people confirm that the Zionist occupation of our land is illegal and that all our institutions derive their legality from the masses which rally around them and not from the occupation authorities which have continually conspired against our people, institutions and national leadership through dismissals, deportations or murders.

Our great people will continue with their comprehensive uprising, and no measures taken by the occupation authorities will bend their will, determination and resolve to resist. Our people will continue to proceed along their glorious path of struggle, deriving from their experience new and effective ways to resist occupation, adhering to the PLO and its national program and fighting to achieve their just national aims -- the aims of return, self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on our national soil. Ours is a revolution until victory.

[Signed] The PLO Executive Committee

KHALIL AL-WAZIR INTERVIEW ON VILLAGE LEAGUES

NC180917 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0550 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Khalil al-Wazir, Fatah Central Committee member and deputy commander of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, identified by his nom de guerre Abu Jihad, interviewed by a Voice of Palestine correspondent; place and date not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] Question: As we all know very well, our people in the occupied land have been escalating their uprising. This is considered to be continuous and cogent proof that the Palestinian people in the occupied land constitute an effective might capable of considerable achievements, particularly in countering Zionist plans. What is your assessment of the people's position in the occupied land? What would you like to say to the nationalist forces there?

Answer: Words cannot acequately express our greetings to those people who are staging daily uprisings, struggling with all their means to confront the Zionist occupation and invasion.

With their national unity our people constitute a stronghold on which all conspiratorial attempts will founder. The enemy is trying to penetrate this strong national wall by creating the village leagues. These attempts will fail because our people realize the nature of these leagues, their origin and meaning. Our people have isolated these leagues and those who joined them. Our enemy wants to deceive certain people under the guise of the villages' interests. Our people, however, know their interests. They have determined their stand on these leagues: They rejected and condemned them. The few members of the village leagues are trying to distort the image of the unified Palestinian ranks of which we are proud. In all our past battles, our people raised one voice. This position exhausted and worried our enemy throughout our people's struggle, because he failed to find one man to stand beside him.

When the Camp David conspiracy and the autonomy plan failed, we did not forget Cyrus Vance's statement after his last visit. On his way home, he said in Rome: We, the Egyptian regime and Israel, failed to find one Palestinian figure in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip to cooperate with us in the autonomy plan.

We have seen the enemy doing his utmost to pick from here and there anyone who would serve his interests. The stand of struggle adopted by our people these days against the village leagues and the withdrawals from these leagues stem from our people's decision that their unity comes first and that they should speak with one voice. Our people and history will not have mercy on those who have linked themselves with these leagues, which are tools of the enemy's intelligence bodies. We are not telling lies because this is a fact that all those who work with these leagues know.

Thus, our people have determined their position on those who followed the village leagues. Our people have said that those who have been deceived must return to the sound path. The enemy is trying to deceive them into believing that the leagues benefit their villages, but this is not the path to serve these villages. The path to serve them is clear: The path is to link themselves with the national interests and cause. This is the basic path. Thus we say that the enemy's attempts to penetrate the national wall will not succeed.

[Question] Brother Abu Jihad, let us move to a topical issue: There are Israeli hints and sometimes statements that Israel will take measures against mayors and other nationalist functionaries in the occupied land. These measures began by banning the activities of the National Guidance Committee, closing Bi'r Zayt University, [words indistinct] and daily acts of repression. Can we consider these actions as a new Israeli escalation in the overall confrontation with our people and revolution, specifically the PLO, or are these measures old cards being played again because the long years of conflict eliminated many of the cards that the enemy was using against our people?

[Answer] This is true, the enemy is trying to play new cards. He is trying to play the card of the village leagues and civil rule. When he found out that our people's opposition is increasing, that the village leagues are being isolated and that they will be punished; that our people resent those who continue their links with these leagues; and the steps taken by Jordan a few days ago against those who continue their membership in the leagues, which are important steps. [incomplete sentence as heard] During our latest meetings in Amman, we discussed the need to take practical measures [against those who join the village leagues]. The Jordanian measures to punish, pass sentences on and confiscate the funds of village league members are important. However, the basic thing is our people's stand. The isolation of these leagues by the people has had an effective and moral role. The enemy has been enraged by this daily confrontation, uprising and boycott of the civil rule and thus began escalating his measures and threatening to dissolve the municipal councils and deport this and that figure.

[Question] Brother Abu Jihad, we do not want this interview to be limited to the events in the occupied land, although these events are the most important ones in the Arab arena at present. We maintain that the Palestinian reality is a group of tributaries that constitute this great deluge of struggle. In addition to the basic tributary of steadfastness in the occupied homeland, there is the military strength of the Palestinian revolution. In addition to his measures to strike at the steadfastness and the patriotic position that is rallying strongly around the PLO in the occupied land, the Zionist enemy is threatening to strike at the Palestinians and joint forces in southern Lebanon.

Our people in the occupied land have taken all the cards the enemy has been playing since the 1967 occupation, and our revolutionaries are capable of repulsing the enemy. This fact has been proved by experience. In Israel, they say Philip Habib is preventing them from launching an aggression and at other times they say the cease-fire may collapse if any Jew anywhere is [words indistinct]. We say this Israeli attitude is within the framework of confronting the PLO. What is your assessment of the present situation in Southern Lebanon?

[Answer] For a long time now, the military and political leaders of the Israeli enemy have been threatening a major offensive to destroy the Palestinian revolution forces and the joint forces in southern Lebanon.

The enemy is making daily threats. The enemy is making false claim that there are violations of the cease-fire by our side. We have committed ourselves to the cease-fire on the Lebanese front and borders. This absolutely does not mean harming our historic right to struggle, resist the occupation and continue our military operations in the occupied land. This is no secret. We said this during the 15-day war to the UN Security Council's envoy and the Security Council President when he came here and met with Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. Brother Abu al-Walid [Sa'd Sayil] and a group of the Palestinian Command and I attended that meeting. When he proposed the cease-fire, our answer was clear. We said: We did not start the firing; try to recall who started it. It was the Israeli enemy who started the firing. It is a part of a continual war. After every operation, the enemy announced that it was part of the continuous war against the PLO everywhere.

In the past we announced our absolute commitment before the successive Lebanese Governments, the Arab summit conferences and even in the Security Council circles, that we are not conducting military operations or shelling across the Lebanese border, because the special situation and circumstances in the Lebanese arena dictate that we stop such actions. We announced this commitment some years ago. However, we will defend ourselves. It is the enemy who started the operation. Let him stop his aggression. Our conditions are clear on this: The enemy must stop his daily air, land and naval operations. This is the first condition. The second condition is that Sa'd Haddad must abide by the Israeli command's decision because he is actually linked to Israel. It cannot be justified that his decisions are made independently. It is an obvious fact that his decisions are contingent upon the Israeli commander in that area. Thus, this is the responsibility of the Israeli Army. Our third condition is that this situation will not harm our right to struggle and to continue our operations across other borders or in the occupied land.

SALVADORAN GUERRILLA LEADER ENDS TALKS WITH PLO

NC181759 Paris AFP in English 1733 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Beirut, 18 Mar (AFP) -- Salvadoran guerrilla leader Caetano Carpio today ended a nearly-two-week long visit here on the invitation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), reliable Palestinian sources reported. The leader of El Salvador's leftist Popular Liberation Forces (PLF), who is better known by his war-name, Commander "Martial," was invited to Lebanon by PLO Military Chief Khalil al'Wazir (Abu Jihad). He also met with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat during his stay here.

In an interview in yesterday's left-wing daily AS-SAFIR, the Salvadoran guerrilla leader said his forces were fighting "American imperialism" and added that Israel "was just as present in El Salvador as the United States." Israel, he said, had recently dispatched "intelligence and psychological war advisors" to El Salvador and was supplying arms to Guatemalan troops.

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC 'CONSIDERING' CUTTING OFF AID TO SYRIA

PM191041 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Mar 82 p 1

['Adnan Sadiq report: "Gulf Countries Seriously Considering Cutting Off Aid and Funds to Syria"]

[Excerpts] Gulf bureau -- ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from well-informed sources that the Arab countries are now seriously considering the question of cutting off all aid and financial allocations to Syria.

The sources affirmed that the subject is now being studied by the six Gulf states following its submission by the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. The proposal was included on the agenda of the third session of the GCC Ministerial Council, which met recently in Riyadh.

The sources said that although no final decision was taken on this matter during the third session, the proposal in question enjoys the support of five member states while the sixth state (whose name the sources declined to reveal) prefers that no such measures be taken in the present circumstances and calls for collective action and high level contacts with the Syrian command to discuss the many issues that the GCC member states are concerned with.

It is understood that the six countries are dissatisfied with Syrian policy on current Arab issues, particularly its policy on the current Iraq-Iran war whereby Syria's stand of strong support for Iran has reached the level of an alliance, something which the Gulf states believe would exacerbate the divisions in the Arab ranks and thus prevent the achievement of the desired Arab solidarity.

It is worth noting that the six Gulf states give financial aid to Syria under financial commitments adopted by the Arab summits in order to support the Arab confrontation states, which are Egypt (before the treaty with Israel), Jordan, the PLO and Syria.

Syria and Iran yesterday officially announced their rejection of the idea of holding the Nonaligned Conference in Baghdad in September as scheduled and called on the nonaligned countries to change the venue of the conference.

AS-SABAH DENIES GCC DIPLOMATIC INTEREST IN EAST

GF181225 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0945 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Riyadh, 18 Mar (WAKH) -- Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and information minister, has denied broaching the question of establishing diplomatic relations between the GCC and Eastern bloc countries at the GCC foreign ministers meeting recently held in Riyadh.

In a statement that will be published by the Saudi magazine AL-YAMAMAH tomorrow, Shaykh Sabal al-Ahmad as-Sabah said that his country has never contemplated the idea of becoming a gateway for GCC countries to establish diplomatic relations with Eastern countries because each GCC country decides its own policy and action free of external influence.

He added that the GCC has succeeded in laying down the bases on which it will be perpetuated, the most important of which is reciprocal understanding among GCC members that will lead to the achievement of the goals for which the GCC was founded.

The Kuwaiti minister affirmed that the minicommittee on Lebanon that was established at the Fes Arab summit will be able to perform its role effectively if all responsible groups cooperate with it in settling this worrisome problem.

The Kuwaiti official attributed the European stand on the Palestinians to the weakness of the Arab stand and the lack of Arab unity in confronting stands harmful to Arab interests. Moreover, he noted that the situation will not improve until the Arabs close their ranks and work in agreement for their own welfare.

BAHRAIN

AMIR RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM PDRY CHAIRMAN

GF140950 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0855 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] Manama, 14 Mar (WAKH) -- The amir of Bahrain, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, has received a message from 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the PDRY Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers. The message deals with developments in the current Arab situation.

The message was conveyed by 'Ali 'Aydarus Yahya, envoy of Chairman 'Ali Nasir and PDRY ambassador to Kuwait, during his meeting with the amir here today.

After the meeting, the PDRY envoy made a statement in which he said they reviewed issues pertaining to the Arab and international situation which are of mutual concern. He added: The amir of Bahrain expressed his country's interest in serving Arab issues.

The PDRY envoy arrived in Manama yesterday for a 2-day visit to Bahrain during his tour of a number of countries in the region.

KUWAIT

MINISTER ON SECURITY AGREEMENT WITH SAUDI ARABIA

GF181825 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 17 Mar 82 p 3

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad has announced that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia agree on all matters pertaining to the security cooperation between them. In an exclusive statement to AL-QABAS, he said Kuwait proposed a plan on this cooperation to Saudi Arabia and that meetings between the two sides have continued in order to exchange views on this issue.

Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad disclosed that a legal difference in views pertaining to the exchange and extradition of criminals between the two countries still exists. He added that this difference has caused a delay in signing a security agreement between them.

The interior minister added that Kuwaiti laws do not include articles permitting the extradition of persons to other states. He explained that Saudi laws do allow for the possibility of extraditing criminals.

The minister explained that, following their detention, criminals in Kuwait are dealt with through the minister of justice and through the courts. He added that, following the detention of criminals, the Interior Ministry, which makes the arrests, becomes a witness and has nothing to do with the criminal, who is turned over to the judicial departments.

Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad said that Kuwait proposed to Saudi Arabia the formation of a committee that would include representatives from the Ministries of Interior and Justice in both countries in order to reach a united view on the issue of exchanging criminals so that it may become possible to agree on all the articles of the security agreement between the two countries.

The minister stressed that the security situation in Kuwait is good and that the individual incidents that take place do not represent security problems to society, as these are present in all societies.

SAUDI ARABIA

ULEMA CALL AL-QADHDHAFI 'TYRANT,' 'HERETIC'

LD182304 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Statement issued by the Council of Senior Ulema: date not given]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God alone and may prayers and peace be on the prophet Muhammad, who was not succeeded by other prophets, and on his family, his followers and all those who have been guided by him and who have repeated his call.

In its 19th session held in Riyadh on 7 March, the Assembly of the Council of Senior Ulema took note of what has been spread by the Libyan Government and the fact that this program attacked the imams of the salafi call -- may God have mercy on them, in this kingdom, Ulema and rulers -- with false vilification and defamation, trying to cast doubt on their faith whose soundness has been acclaimed by all just men throughout the Muslim world despite claims by the radio that this faith aims at dissipating the Islamic call. In fact, just and fair-minded Western theologians have also acknowledged the soundness of this faith. None of the enemies of this faith have ever tried to cast doubt on the authenticity of those who possess it, that is, until Libyan Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi shamelessly, thoughtlessly and without any regard for religion, gave his radio and information media an opportunity to boldly attack the lofty position of God Almighty, to ridicule Him, to deny a great part of His Shari'ah, and to talk about Him with insolence and without fear by quoting modern poetry and detestable words.

The Assembly has reviewed this and the hostile tendencies being practiced by factions who have deviated in their belief, who are motivated by their hatred and envy, and who are being led in their sinister and deviationist tendencies by elements who have similar tendencies in harboring hostility to Islam and Muslims. They see this country as an obstacle hindering their sinister plans, as this country is the great bastion of Islam and Muslims.

At the forefront of these deviant and misguided factions is the tyrant of Libya, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the man who has devoted himself to the service of evil, spreading anarchy, provoking discord and casting doubt on Islam. The Assembly has reviewed the eccentricity of this man and his quick response to the elements of evil, deceit and envy, as he began to rave over his information media with words that shame any person with sound mind and reason. This is evident in his words, deeds and the changes he suffers in all his fields of action inside and outside his country, first and foremost his attack on the Islamic faith. [sentence as heard] This man has renounced the prophet's tradition and has ridiculed the pilgrimage to God's holy house. He has mocked Muslims who perform the rites on Mount Arafat. A number of fatwas [formal legal opinions in Islamic law] have been issued by higher Islamic bodies and assemblies condemning him. Despite this, this poor man is still persisting along his wrong path, a matter which makes one totally convinced that he is a misguided person and a heretic.

The Assembly of the Council of Senior Ulema, while denouncing the encroachment by this pretender as far as Islam and Muslims are concerned, reiterates and stresses that by his renunciation of the tradition of the prophet, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, his ridicule of the pilgrimage, his belittling of some of the Islamic teachings and his sinister and invalid tendencies this man has shown he is a heretic, misguided, unjust, a tyrant and a criminal who has harmed the worshippers of God and has wrongly accused them of reprehensible deeds, something which is not done by a sound and logical person who has any respect for himself, his mind or his humanity. He has insulted the people who have spread Islam and the ulema who have upheld this religion, called for it and sacrificed themselves and their wealth for upholding the word of God, particularly the late Imams Muhammad ibn Sa'ud and Muhammad ibn 'Abd al-Wahhab, may God have mercy on them, their supporters, and their followers. We are from God and to Him we shall return. He decides our destiny. There is no power but from God Almighty. May God's prayers be on our Prophet Muhammad, his family and his followers.

YAR

PRESIDENT RAPS U.S. BUILDUP IN MIDDLE EAST

OW150329 Tokyo KYODO in English 0312 GMT 15 Mar 82

[Text] Tokyo, 15 Mar (KYODO) -- South Yemen' President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad has expressed strong caution about the American military buildup in the Middle East such as the creation of its Rapid Deployment Force (RDF).

Muhammad showed the caution in a letter in reply to a written inquiry sent by KYODO news service to the head of state of South Yemen. Muhammad also criticized the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) for having Oman, South Yemen's neighboring country in cooperative relations with the United States, as a member.

South Yemen concluded a trilateral friendship and cooperation treaty (the so-called Aden Treaty) with Libya and Ethiopia last August as the first pro-Soviet alliance in the Middle East and African regions.

After stating his country's basic diplomatic line to strengthen cooperative relations with socialist countries and people's liberation forces, Muhammad blamed the U.S. for threatening military occupation of Arab oil fields whenever an energy crisis breaks out since the Gerald Ford administration. He said the creation of the RDF, buildup of American warships' activities in the Indian Ocean and construction of military bases in Oman's Masirah Island were posing security threats. He said he was disappointed by Oman which offered its territory and territorial waters to American RDF units while doubting the neutrality of the GCC with Oman as a member.

Muhammad said his country had favorable relations with Kuwait, the Unted Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain among the six GCC member countries but he failed to mention Saudi Arabia, a leader of the GCC, tacitly showing his distrust of the country.

Muhammad also stressed recent cooperation between North and South Yemen toward their peaceful unification was useful to prevent outsiders from interfering in Yemeni affairs to cause a civil war in Yemen. He did not explain the outsiders' interference, but it is believed to mean Saudi Arabia's financial aid to North Yemen and its support for a leading North Yemen tribe opposed to unification with South Yemen for religious reasons.

Referring to bilateral relations, Muhammad said Japan and South Yemen had favorable economic and trade relations but called for more understanding of the Palestine problem by Japan to further improve the bilateral ties.

82D AIRBORNE CONTINGENT ARRIVES IN SINAI

NC182043 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] About 400 soldiers of the U.S. 82d Airborne Division arrived today in Sharm ash-Shaykh base in the southern Sinai. They constitute the vanguard of the Sinai multinational force.

FIJIAN UNIT ARRIVES; ITALIANS SEND MINESWEEPERS

NC181658 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Some 496 Fijian soldiers arrived in Tel Aviv today to join the Sinai multinational force [MFO], which will take up positions in the Sinai following the Israeli withdrawal on 25 April. Other contingents from the Netherlands, Australia and New Zealand are scheduled to arrive this week to join the MFO.

The Italian Government today decided officially to send 3 minesweepers and their crews consisting of 90 men to participate in the Sinai MFO. This decision is slated to be put forward to the Italian parliament for ratification.

AL-JUMHURIYAH ON BORDER DISPUTES, WITHDRAWAL

NC182300 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 18 Mar (MENA) -- AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses that the simple technical differences between Egypt and Israel on the redemarcation of the border will not delay the withdrawal from Sinai a single hour. The paper refers in this regard to the link between the withdrawal and a strategic aim from which there can be no retreat. This aim is peace.

In an editorial in Friday's edition, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The differences on the border points are secondary and can be resolved through negotiations, arbitration, mediation or any other political action formula stipulated in the peace agreement or the UN Charter.

The paper stresses that any negotiations between Egypt and Israel will not affect Egypt's international borders mentioned in the 1906 agreement but that they will be an attempt to settle the differences between the two sides without harming inalienable Egyptian rights.

The paper says Israel is fully aware of the fact that Egypt's borders are something sacred and therefore cannot be tampered with, and no Egyptian will concede even 1 inch of these borders.

In conclusion, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: A real peace in the Middle East must be a just peace which does not jeopardize any national rights. Egypt is most keen on this.

AL-MUSAWWAR ON MUBARAK'S JERUSALEM STAND

NC181207 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 18 Mar (MENA) -- In its Friday edition, the magazine AL-MUSAWWAR says Egypt has affirmed to the Israeli side that President Mubarak's decision not to visit Jerusalem is not connected directly or indirectly with the question of the normalization of relations between the two countries. It is related, according to President Mubarak, to a principled Egyptian stand. The magazine noted that the Egyptian stand is based on the following:

1. President as-Sadat's visit [to Jerusalem] was part of his peace initiative, and the late president did not go to Jerusalem after it was declared the capital of of Israel, but visited Haifa and Beersheba.
2. Egypt rejected the declaration of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and exchanged three memoranda with Menahem Begin and the Jordanian [as received: presumably U.S.] administration about this subject.
3. Egypt insisted that the documents ratifying the peace treaty be exchanged in a U.S. early warning station in Sinai and not in Jerusalem, as Israel was proposing.
4. All talks between Egyptian and Israeli delegations were held in Herzliyya or Tel Aviv in line with Egypt's clear stand toward Jerusalem.
5. Egypt is anxious to ensure that the question of the visit will not cause any peripheral difficulties affecting the normalization process and relations of peace between the two countries. The question of Jerusalem is still a subject of negotiations, even within the framework of the autonomy talks in which Egypt is insisting that the [Arab] inhabitants of Jerusalem participate in the election of the autonomy institutions.

AL-MUSAWWAR says that Cairo has completely rejected any attempt to link Egypt's stand on the visit to Jerusalem to Egyptian-Arab relations. Cairo rejects pressure from any side. Moreover, the question of the visit to Jerusalem stems from a firm stand concerning an issue which is still under negotiations.

AS-SIYASAH INTERVIEWS MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD LEADER

GF171630 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 16 Mar 82 pp 16, 19

[Interview granted by 'Umar at-Tilmisani, Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood leader, to AS-SIYASAH correspondent Babakr Hasan Makki in Cairo -- no date given]

[Excerpts] Question: Who is 'Umar at-Tilmisani? Is he the Muslim Brotherhood leader or the chief editor of the former magazine AD-DA'WAH?

Answer: The Muslim Brotherhood is an unrecognized organization in Egypt. We adhere to the law. If I call myself Muslim Brotherhood leader, this means I have violated the law. The fact is that our law states that in the absence of the guide, the eldest guidance office member will replace him. Since we are unrecognized by law, there is no guidance office or guide. But since I am the eldest member in the guidance office, the brothers consider me their eldest brother and consult me on their private and general problems.

Question: After As-Sadat's assassination, reports and analyses linked the assassination with religious groups and with the wave of religious extremism. What is the relationship between the Islamic groups and religious extremism?

Answer: The campaign against religious groups is a tendentious campaign, and it is wrong to call them extremists because there is no extremism in religion. You may remember that an attempt was made against the life of U.S. President Reagan in Washington, another attempt was made against the pope in the Vatican. Thus, these incidents take place all over the world and not only in Egypt. However, there is an external campaign in Egypt aimed against the whole Islamic movement. They are carrying out this campaign to distort the Islamic movement and to prevent the young people from being imbued with Islamic thought.

Question: What is your evaluation of President Husni Mubarak's leadership so far?

Answer: Husni Mubarak has made a good start. Mubarak has changed most of the measures taken by As-Sadat. As-Sadat detained a group of people and Husni Mubarak released them. As-Sadat used to slander the detainees and Husni Mubarak received and welcomed them upon release. This indicates that he wants to rally all parties and close the ranks of the nation.

Question: Why, then, is it being rumored abroad that President Mubarak has polarized the opposition to avert the danger of the Islamic groups?

Answer: I do not believe this, because President Mubarak released many members of the Islamic groups. If he meant to do this, he would not have released these individuals. President Mubarak does not feel threatened by the Islamic groups.

Question: It is said that President Husni Mubarak has Nasirite views. Do you believe this?

Answer: Those who are acquainted with developments in Egypt affirm that Mubarak does not have a particular stand. He is neither Nasirite nor As-Sadatist. His mind is independent, as was indicated in the recent economic conference. He used sound thinking when he gathered all the economic specialists, even those who were dismissed by As-Sadat, like 'Abd al-Jalil al-'Umari.

Question: Are you afraid that President Mubarak will change his domestic policy after 25 April, particularly since Western analyses indicate that the current polarization of opposition is temporary?

Answer: Let me tell you something everyone should know. "We do not fear anyone except God." If we feared anybody, what 'Abd an-Nasir did to us would have been enough to make us stay at home and worship God inside our houses. We do not expect evil from anybody nor do we mistrust anybody. When someone does mischief to us, God is between him and us.

Question: How much do you believe in the return of Egyptian-Arab relations, particularly since President Mubarak has repeatedly expressed his commitment to the policy of former President Anwar as-Sadat for which Arabs boycotted him?

Answer: I do not think there is any contradiction between the two stands. I sent many memos to former President Anwar as-Sadat in which I asked him not to slander Muslim leaders. I told him: Let them slander you but do not retaliate because that would be improper. He did not listen to my advice, and he used to slander and insult them all. When President Mubarak assumed power his first instruction to the press was not to attack Arab countries. This measure is in accord with what I believe in. I thanked God for this stand.

As for the return of Egyptian-Arab relations in spite of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, this is possible because Arab countries believed As-Sadat was wrong about this. However, their stand was wrong and thus the situation worsened. They should not have done such things as boycotting Egypt and withdrawing ambassadors, which left Egypt to face Israel alone. If they had convinced As-Sadat of his fault, tried to correct the fault and collectively decided to rescue him from his fault, things would have been different.

Question: What do you mean by "rescue" here?

Answer: In my view, Saudi King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz is a good man. He could have called the Arab leaders for a summit conference in Mecca or Medina, and in these holy places he could have intimately and quietly discussed things with them. At that time, it was possible to tell As-Sadat that what he did was wrong. As-Sadat would then have given his reasons for concluding this treaty. He had sound reasons. If the Arab countries had supported Egypt, Israel would not have reached that limit with it, because now Israel no longer respects the treaty and has breached it. It bombed Iraq's reactor, annexed the Golan and breached the meaning of autonomy rule.

Question: You believe, therefore, that King Khalid is the only Arab leader who can reconcile Egypt with the Arabs?

Answer: I believe that because I hear that he is a good man. I believe that his goodness will probably lead to good things. Therefore, he is the proper man to bring about a reapproachement between Egypt and the Arabs.

Question: What is your evaluation of the recent incidents in Syria?

Answer: My assessment is that the Muslim brothers in Syria are legitimately defending themselves and they are not revolutionaries. Islamic and civil laws allow for self-defense.

Question: What is your opinion on the establishment of the GCC?

Answer: I support any form of solidarity among any Muslim states, even if it is between two of them, because Muslim rulers must be fully confident that their strength and power lie in their peoples.

Question: If President Husni Mubarak offers you the Religious Trusts portfolio, will you accept the offer?

Answer: I will not accept any offer to be minister unless the ruler says he will implement God's law. This is my first and last condition. Is it reasonable for me to ask for the implementation of God's law and then be a minister of a ministry that does not implement God's law?

AS-SIYASAH INTERVIEWS NPUG CHAIRMAN MUHYI AD-DIN

GF160630 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 14 Mar 82 p 19

[Interview granted to AS-SIYASAH correspondent Babakr Hasan Makki by Khalid Muhyi ad-Din, chairman of the Egyptian National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party [NPUG] in his office in Cairo -- date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] After 25 April, Egypt's domestic and external situation will change. What will your relations with the Egyptian leadership be after that date?

[Answer] I believe the government will be in a better position after 25 April, because it will be under fewer pressures than those it has been subject to under the concessions made under the peace treaty. In return for these concessions the government's sole gain was the return of Sinai. Yet, the treaty remains, with all its restrictions. The NPUG has been very clear in all its meetings on this treaty: It is not opposed to the restoration of Sinai, but it is opposed to the price that has been paid for it. The Egyptian national movement will continue to fight for the removal of these restrictions. However, despite these differences -- and this is the positive side of the situation -- we used to be called "traitors" when we were opposing the treaty. However, we are trying to find a common ground to resolve the crisis of Egypt's national stand. The problems that are facing the national issue, the issue of dealing with the enemy, and the treatment of the so-called Western alliance strategy. Egypt must be an independent state having good relations and close ties with the United States. Yet, it must not be part of the U.S. strategy and the Western alliance strategy, which involves it in international conflicts and which will turn the region into a region that is preparing for war, particularly since the United States has said a limited nuclear war in the Middle East and Europe is likely to happen. Therefore, our battle against all restrictions of the treaty and for Egypt's true independence, nonalignment and non-entry into alliances -- as the president has said -- is a long battle and this battle will continue.

[Question] What have you done for the restoration of Egyptian-Arab relations?

[Answer] I have visited Algeria and Tunisia and met with Arab League officials. In Algeria I met with Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who happened to be there. Of course, I met with Brother Chadli Bendjedid. I explained to them our view of the new situation and the new changes that will take place. I also explained this stand to Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the brothers in the Arab League. There is an issue facing us: After 25 April a situation will exist that needs treatment, because Egypt will have a treaty with Israel and for many reasons cannot abrogate it. The Arab world severed relations with Egypt because of this treaty. Therefore, a solution must be reached for this difficult situation. On the other hand, the Arab world considers Egypt a basic source of strength for it in its battle. Without the Arabs, Egypt also is weak. How can we reach a solution to this situation? Our view -- in all our meetings and messages -- has been that the first step is that Egypt should not be involved in any declaration of principles on the autonomy rule which the Palestinians reject. After the struggle they have waged the Palestinian people have the right to a solution that ensures their right to self-determination and the establishment of a state on their own land under the PLO. The elections that have taken place in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have proved that more than 95 percent of the Palestinian people support the PLO.

The Egyptian leadership is aware of the new situation, and President Mubarak has affirmed that he will not do anything with any issue that is beyond his control. Thus, the first point is that if Egypt does not sign a declaration of principles it will have opened the way for an Arab and internationally accepted solution for the Palestinian issue. However, this will not be easy because Israel knows this and will continue to deal blows to the Arab world.

There is another way to the return of Egyptian-Arab relations: There must be an Arab solution to the Middle East problem, which all Arab countries must agree to. This must be a real solution and not a "step-by-step" solution so that it will not be an Arab "Camp David." For example, we have our own view of Fahd's peace plan. Our view is that the PLO must be added to it and it must be implemented through the United Nations and with the two superpowers' guarantee so that the United States will not be the only "guarantor" for the solution, because Camp David has failed and because half of the project -- the Palestinian issue -- has failed. That is why Moscow's participation in the solution alongside Washington is important.

There is another point: The Middle East issue cannot be resolved in isolation from an end to all foreign military presence in the region. Otherwise, we will emerge grom the military conflict with Israel only to enter a military conflict with the Soviet Union. This is a very grave consequence. I mean the United States is seeking a solution and once this solution is achieved, it will polarize the whole region in what is called a strategic consensus against the Soviet Union and thus the region will be involved in an arms race and an international conflict. I do not believe the U.S. military presence in the Gulf region will provide protection. Protection means that the region itself should be capable of protecting itself. The entire Middle East region is sensitive and the superpowers must guarantee its nonalignment. It is a region of oil and oil has to flow quietly. Besides, it is in the interest of the countries of the region and the Arabs to sell their oil to others. The idea of stopping the flow of oil is not in the mind of any Arab. If the Soviet Union tried to control the region to stop the flow of oil a world war would break out. However, if the Soviet Union seeks a world war, then this is another case.

To say that there is a Soviet threat is unacceptable. If there are Arab governments that are friendly with the United States let them be friendly, but it would be a very serious matter if they should drag the region into military pacts and bases. If we can resolve this problem we would open to ourselves a wide gate toward a Middle East solution. I should like to say here that threats to the Gulf exist. The fact is that Iran alone cannot threaten the Gulf, because the Arab world can resist it. I believe that if the imperialist-colonialist hand is kept off the area then all the problems will be solved and the Iraqi-Iranian war will end. The belief that the United States is the only friend is a mistake. Let us say that the United States is a friend; however, it is not the only friend. Therefore, it is in the interest of the Arab countries to move toward a balanced policy of neutrality in their relations with the great powers, because such a policy safeguards the Middle East's security and independence.

[Question] When speaking about the contacts you made in Algeria with President Bendjedid, with the Libyan leader Al-Qadhdhafi and with other officials, you said that you acquainted them with the new situation in Egypt and that it is important that the Arab countries should be aware of this situation. How responsive were Bendjedid and Al-Qadhdhafi to this point (an Arab solution to the Palestinian question)?

[Answer] No one rejected this answer. However, they believe that the present balance of military power in the Middle East is in Israel's favor. A foreign military presence makes a solution more difficult. Therefore, their view was that any solution while the present military balance continues will be in Israel's favor.

The fact is that the Arabs so far have not used their potential to exert pressure on the United States, although such a pressure is very necessary. If we have considered making peace with Israel, should we not consider making peace with the Soviet Union? Why should we be hostile to the Soviet Union? I am not saying that we should give up U.S. friendship, but we should not be hostile to the Soviet Union.

Therefore, the restoration of normal Egyptian-Arab relations requires lengthy efforts for the matter is not all that simple. Egypt is supporting the Arab position with its influence. There is now a sure desire on the part of the Egyptian leadership to do this, but when this effort will take place depends on Egypt and the Arab countries.

There is now an issue that is being discussed in all the Arab countries that I have visited: How will Egypt return to the Arabs? Will it return to a policy of axes or to all the Arabs? This can happen. Some moderate Arab countries are trying to attract Egypt on the side opposed to the countries of the teadfastness and onfrontation Front. This would be a calamity, for Egypt should return to all the Arabs. I believe that Egypt wants to return to all the Arabs.

The new leadership in Egypt has inherited from the old leadership a situation that requires a long struggle to rectify it. In the 'Abd an-Nasir era Egypt played a leading role because it was truly independent.

Therefore, the NPUG has welcomed all the statements by President Husni Mubarak when he stressed that he will not agree to pacts or bases and that Egypt will be a nonaligned country and will not become involved in an agreement on [Palestinian] autonomy. These are statements that reflect a desire to be independent.

[Question] The Camp David policy has achieved half its objectives, the withdrawal from Sinai, and the more important half -- the Palestinian question -- remains unsolved. Do you believe that Israel will oppose any other Arab plan after 25 April because it believes that the Camp David accords are the last of the peace plans?

[Answer] First of all, the first half of the Camp David accords that has been implemented -- the withdrawal from Sinai -- has been achieved under difficult conditions. As for Israel believing that Camp David is the last of the plans, let it think what it likes. What is important is that the Arabs should use their geographic and political position and their alliances -- if they do not utilize these factors they will not be able to play a role in international politics. I believe that there is nothing called Israeli "rejection" when there is Arab strength and when Arab political, economic and military potential is used. Israel cannot live in isolation -- when the whole world supports the Palestinian cause. The whole world will not support the Palestinian cause unless Arab pressure is exerted. The Arab countries should realize that they play an important role as far as the interests of the great powers are concerned. They should use such "cards" with great skill for their own benefit and to serve their interests. But as long as we are more concerned with narrow class interests than with pan-Arab [qawmiyah] interests we will not be able to resolve our national issue. 'Abd an-Nasir's skill was in that he was able to bypass class interests to work for national [qawmiyah] interests.

[Question] Do you believe that there has been a relaxation in Egyptian-Soviet relations following President Mubarak's assumption of power?

[Answer] What happened is a "disengagement." The fact is that the justification for the severance of relations was what used to be called "case 19." But it has recently transpired that this case is based on lies. The past leadership knew that this case was not based on facts but at the time it wanted to freeze Egyptian-Soviet relations. The new leadership has declared its desire to have balanced relations. The fact that the new leadership wants to improve its relations with the Soviet Union does not mean that such an improvement should be at the expense of relations with the United States. This is clear. The domestic situation is the criterion for Egypt's external relations. The seriousness of the new leadership's relations with the political forces at home and the new leadership's desire to search for a common ground will be reflected in Egypt's external relations. We believe that democracy in Egypt still requires many adjustments. Therefore, all the domestic and external forces that do not want the situation to change will resist such new changes. In Egypt there are forces within the ruling apparatus that are not very happy with Husni Mubarak's relationship with the political forces (not further identified) and do not want him to change As-Sadat's policy, as though As-Sadat's policy is the Koran.

AD-DUSTUR: IBRAHIM CONDEMNS AL-BIRAH DISBANDMENT

JN191045 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Mar 82 pp 1, 15

[Nabil 'Amir dispatch]

[Text] Minister for Occupied Land Affairs Hasan Ibrahim has described as an arbitrary measure the Zionist authorities' decision to disband the Al-Birah Municipal Council and replace it with a committee representing the occupation authorities. He said that resting the legality of this decision on Jordanian Law No. 29 of 1955 is inconsistent with reality.

In an exclusive statement to AD-DUSTUR, the minister said that the primary cause for this encroachment on the citizens and the legitimate municipal council, which represents these citizens, is a new aggression against legality and Palestinian rights.

He added that the Zionist decision exposes the occupation authorities' objectives which are aimed at applying civil administration, entrenching occupation, confiscating Palestinian land and annexing the West Bank.

In conclusion, the minister said that serious action on the Arab and international levels is required to foil the Israeli plan.

HUSAYN SPEAKS AT POTASH FACTORY INAUGURATION

JN181600 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1220 GMT 18 Mar 82

["Text" of speech delivered by Jordan's King Husayn at inauguration of a potash factory in the Jordan Valley on 18 March -- carried in "Newsreel" program -- recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, brother citizens, friendly visitors, honorable audience: I greet you with love, trust and faith. It is my pleasure to share with you the occasion of celebrating the completion of this great national project whose good results and positive meanings go beyond the border of our homeland to the spacious pan-Arab and human field.

The Dead Sea had throughout history a distinguished position in our land and waters that God has blessed. God has deposited in it a rich wealth, rare treasures whose qualities emphasize the meaning of power, fertility and life.

Dear friends, half of the Dead Sea, upon whose shore the Jordanian potash project is built, belongs to Jordan and lies under its sovereignty and with its historical borders. Also, a quarter of this sea lies within the occupied land of the Palestinian Arab people. This Dead Sea, historically and geographically, neighbors Arab Jerusalem -- the city of peace whose land and surroundings God has blessed and granted holiness and honor.

God has deposited in this sea a rare and blessed wealth, and as you know and see the exploitation of the Dead Sea treasures will bring goodness to man in our homeland and contribute to his prosperity and progress.

Israel, the occupier of all Palestine, by practicing and implementing its aggressive and expansionist policy and imposing a fait accompli in the occupied Arab lands, insists on encroaching on the Dead Sea. This is represented in its intention to open a canal which would link the Mediterranean with the Dead Sea. This Israeli action is an aggression against our land, our rights and our spiritual values. It is also an aggression against and a violation of international laws, which assign to the occupation authority the borders which must not be violated.

This canal between the two seas will greatly damage our national rights and wealth as a result of Mediterranean water flowing into the Dead Sea and the negative effects it will have on it. The waters will also bury historical landmarks and human sites. The canal itself will also encroach on occupied Palestinian Arab land, thus creating demographic and geographic changes that violate all rights, justice and laws.

This canal also poses a great threat to the security and stability of Palestine, Jordan and neighboring Arab countries as a result of Israel's intention to exploit the canal water to cool Israeli nuclear installations which will be devoted to evil and aggressive purposes.

So, friends, contemplate the nobleness of the aim we wished to achieve from establishing this project for good purposes, progress and peace for us and all mankind. In contrast, Israel intends to use the canal project between the two seas to threaten security and prosperity in our region and to oppose justice, peace and stability in this vital part of the world.

Dear friends, we seize this opportunity to express to you, and send through you to your noble nations the most sincere feelings of thanks and appreciation as well as the sentiments of friendship, cooperation and respect and the true desire for joint action for the sake of progress and prosperity for us all. We also greatly assert our defiance of this new Israeli aggression and renew our call through you to your friendly countries and your peoples, who believe in peace and justice, to prevent Israel from embarking on its new aggression, which harbors evil and poses danger to us and the Palestinian people and to our rights and land.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADORS APPOINTED -- Amman, 3 Mar (PETRA) -- The Cabinet today appointed Dr Sulayman ad-Dajani, Jordanian ambassador to Australia and Hasan Abu Ni'mah, Jordan's ambassador to Belgium, as nonresident ambassador to Luxembourg. [Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 3 Mar 82 JN]

AMBASSADOR TO SAUDI ARABIA -- Amman, 8 Mar (PETRA) -- The Council of Ministers has decided to appoint Hani Tabbarah Jordan's ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. [Text] [Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 8 Mar 82 JN]

NONRESIDENT AMBASSADORS -- Amman, AR-RA'Y -- A royal decree has been issued, approving the appointment of Muhyi ad-Din al-Husayni as Jordan's nonresident ambassador to Senegal, 'Abd al-Hadi al-Majali as Jordan's nonresident ambassador to Mexico, Sami ash-Shamaylah as Jordan's nonresident ambassador to Malta and Walid as-Sa'd as Jordan's nonresident ambassador to Yugoslavia. [Text] [Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 11 Mar 82 p 2 JN]

TWO AMBASSADORS SWORN IN -- Amman, (PETRA) -- Salih az-Zu'bi and Dr Walid as-Sa'di were sworn in yesterday before His Majesty King Husayn as Jordan's ambassadors to the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Turkey, respectively. Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim attended the ceremony. [Text] [Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Mar 82 p 24 JN]

PETRA-JNA TRANSMITTER -- Amman, 8 Mar (PETRA) -- The Jordanian news agency, PETRA, today began to install a new transmitter and antenna to boost its current transmission and cover new areas of the world. The new antenna can be turned in any direction for transmission purposes. Work on the new 10 kw project will take 1 month. [Excerpt] [Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 8 Mar 82 JN]

AL-ASAD RECEIVES DFLP'S HAWATIMAH 18 MAR

JN181510 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1425 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Damascus, 18 Mar (SANA) -- President Hafiz al-Asad received here this morning a delegation from the command of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]. The delegation includes the front's secretary, General Nayif Hawatimah, Salih Ra'fat and Qays 'Abd al-Karim. The talks dealt with the general situation in the Arab homeland and in Lebanon in light of the campaigns against the Arab nation and the threats being directed at it.

The need to intensify efforts to strengthen cooperation between the powers confronting the imperialist and Zionist conspiracies and to consolidate Arab steadfastness was stressed during the talks.

Hawatimah expressed appreciation for Syria's pioneering role in the Arab world and in confronting the hostile plans. He stressed that any conspiracy against Syria is a conspriacy against the Arab nation and its pan-Arab issue. Hawatimah briefed President al-Asad on the outcome of his visit to Libya and Algeria.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES ALGERIAN ENVOY, MESSAGE

JN181912 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received 'Abd al-Hamid al-Mahri, director of the Information and Culture Committee of the Algerian National Liberation Front Party, at 1330 today. Al-Mahri delivered to the president a letter from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid stressing that Algeria is closely following the conspiratorial attempts aimed against Syria as a bastion of steadfastness in the face of the Zionist and imperialist schemes. The letter affirms that Algeria has always been confident that Syria will be able to overcome all plots, strike at the plotters and foil hostile schemes. The letter also affirms that Algeria fully stands by Syria's side in facing all plots and plotters.

SYRIAN YOUTHS DEMONSTRATE NEAR GOLAN VILLAGES

JN182014 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] The Arab youth delegations, which are holding their extraordinary conference in the liberated city of Al-Qunaytirah in support of Syria's struggle and its pan-Arab and progressive stands, visited liberated villages of the Golan today. The Arab youth delegations staged a demonstration at the village of 'Ayn at-Tinah, which is near the occupied town of Majdal Shams, with the participation of the Al-Qunaytirah youths and popular organizations in the city.

In their slogans, the youth delegations expressed their rejection of the Zionist decision to annex the Syrian Arab Golan Heights and affirmed that the Arab nation will not surrender or be subjugated by aggression and will continue the march of liberation with the support of its revolutionary and progressive vanguards to restore the legitimate rights of our Palestinian Arab people.

The people of Majdal Shams immediately gathered on the occupied side and began to wave Syrian flags and to raise slogans praising the Arab nation and Arab progressive forces and supporting the Syrian steadfastness under struggling President Hafiz al-Asad. They chanted: The Golan is Arab, the Golan is Arab.

The SANA correspondent says that the Zionist enemy forces were seen dispersing Arab citizens in the main square of the occupied town of Majdal Shams, using teargas and violence to silence them.

TISHRIN CRITICIZES CALLS SUPPORTING EGYPT

JN191110 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0850 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] Damascus, 19 Mar (SANA) -- The newspaper TISHRIN today expresses surprise and astonishment at some Arab states' optimism over Mubarak's Egypt returning to the Arab fold, describing this return under Egypt's current circumstances and its commitments to treaties with the Zionist enemy as a wolf entering a goat yard.

The paper asks: Have these optimists forgotten As-Sadat's reconciliation, which was completely adopted by Mubarak? Will the return of Mubarak's Egypt, which is burdened with the Zionist commitments, bring success or weakness to the Arab nation? Will Egypt, which is tied by the Camp David accords and all their secret addendums, be a brick in the Arab structure or a pickax destroying internal security?

The paper expresses its conviction that Israel and the United States want to bring Mubarak's Egypt into the Arab fold in order to use it as a springboard for eliminating the rest of the Arab nation. Thus, those who call for Egypt's return to the Arab fold are like those who bring a wolf into a goat yard.

TISHRIN asserts that Egypt's Mubarak will return to the Arab fold but without Camp David and without those Zionist-U.S. restrictions. This return will be a war against all those who have tried to drown Egypt's Mubarak in the swamp of tragedies.

BA'TH PARTY, MPRP ISSUE JOINT STATEMENT

JN171530 Damascus SANA Arabic 1410 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Damascus, 17 Mar (SANA) -- The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party [MPRP] have condemned the conspiratorial role of the Muslim Brotherhood gang, which is condemned historically and which receives orders from U.S imperialism and Zionism and implements them inside the country in an attempt to confuse Syria.

This is contained in the joint statement issued at the end of the visit that an MPRP delegation headed by Tserendashiyn Namsray, member of the MPRP Central Committee, paid to Syria at the invitation of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party 26 February-5 March.

The two sides strongly condemned the conspiracies and designs of U.S. imperialism, Zionism and reaction against the Arab nation, represented by the Camp David accords, and the outcome of these accords.

The two sides strongly denounced the acts of terrorism by Israel in the occupied Arab territories, the establishment of settlements and its moves toward annexing these territories, such as its decision to annex Jerusalem and its recent decision to annex the occupied Syrian Arab Golan Heights. These are all violations of resolutions adopted by the United Nations and other international organizations.

The two sides reiterated that a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the Middle East issue will be realized only if Israel completely and unconditionally withdraws from all Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, and recognizes the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights.

The two sides strongly condemned Israel's continued policy of aggression against Lebanon, its blatant interference in its domestic affairs and the obstructions it is creating to prevent the achievement of national accord among its sons.

The two sides reaffirmed their support for the struggle of the national and progressive forces there to protect Lebanon's independence and territorial integrity, to extend the legitimate authorities' jurisdiction over all Lebanese territories and to take into consideration the legitimate interests of the Palestinian resistance movement in it.

The two sides expressed anxiety over the escalation of international tension which stems from the policy of aggression and the measures that the imperialist United States is carrying out. They condemned the U.S. military presence in the Middle East, the Arab Gulf, the Indian Ocean and east Africa.

The two sides expressed support for the Soviet Union's proposals for entrenching peace and security, achieving international detente and limiting the arms race.

The two sides stressed the importance of the solid and firm relations that exist between Syria and the socialist countries and highly evaluated the treaty of friendship between Syria and the Soviet Union which has strengthened relations of friendship between the two countries and the struggle and steadfastness of the Arab progressive forces.

The two delegations voiced their apprehension over the Iraqi-Iranian war, which conflicts with the real interests of the Iraqi and Iranian peoples, serves imperialist designs to restore control over the region and distracts the attention of the Arabs and the rest of the world from focusing on the real struggle in the region.

The statement necessitates a political settlement of the situation in Afghanistan. The two sides also condemned the foreign interference of the imperialist and reactionary powers in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

The two sides voiced their satisfaction with the relations of friendship and cooperation between their two parties and countries and underlined their determination to further promote and consolidate these relations to serve the interests of the two friendly peoples.

Within this framework, the two sides signed an agreement for joint cooperation between the two parties for 1982-83.

The MPRP delegation successfully concluded its cordial visit to Syria, which will effectively contribute to further developing the relations of struggle between the two friendly countries and peoples.

EGYPT'S FOREIGN MINISTER ASSESSES TALKS

TA181443 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Mar 82 pp 1, 7

[Report by Smadar Peri, Arye Tzimuqi and Yehoshu'a Halamish]

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali told YEDI'OT AHARONOT that he felt frustrated at the end of his talks in Israel and that he was leaving here with an uneasy feeling. "If we do not succeed in reaching a solution acceptable to both countries over the matter of the border demarcation, this could turn into a boomerang working first and foremost against Israel." In a conversation yesterday with YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent Smadar Peri, 'Ali said: "For 4 years I have been working for the peace process. We have achieved a great deal since the peace initiative began. Israel made certain commitments and Egypt made other commitments."

"Although 25 April is not a target date, no gaps must be left on an issue as important as the border demarcation," 'Ali said. "I believe that it is as important for Israel as it is for Egypt to keep the commitments it made. If we do not obtain an agreement, this could boomerang against Israel."

On the dispute between Israel and Egypt over the border demarcation, especially in the Tabah area near Elat, the following details have been learned: Israel has proposed turning the Tabah region into a neutral zone where neither side will have sovereignty. Israel has requested a guarantee of free passage of Israeli citizens and tourists into the area and the positioning of the MFO there until a decision is made about the border demarcation. Egypt demanded an immediate decision recognizing Egyptian sovereignty in the Tabah area and said it is willing to guarantee free passage of inhabitants to and from it. Egypt has proposed arbitration if the dispute is not settled. Israel has proposed establishing an equally divided committee that would continue with negotiations and only if a solution is not found within a reasonable period of time will other ways by sought to settle the dispute.

The Egyptian foreign minister put off his departure until yesterday waiting for a reply from President Mubarak to the Israeli proposals, but the answer never came. It was agreed that Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon would go to Cairo in the first week of April to continue with the talks.

Upon his return last night to Cairo, 'Ali said that, in the event that no agreement is achieved, "Egypt will have to decide on specific measures in order to guarantee its rights and its borders." Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali said, on his return from Israel, that after the completion of the withdrawal "there will be a new impetus in the talks on the Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

It appears that the autonomy talks will not be resumed before the completion of the withdrawal. Butrus Ghali said the chance of other Arab countries joining in the peace process would improve after the completion of the withdrawal. Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said, after his meetings yesterday with 'Ali and Ghali, that the Egyptians think it is now worthwhile to appeal to Jordan to join in the autonomy negotiations.

Last night Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon warned that if the Egyptians did not want to hold autonomy deliberations in Jerusalem, "there will be no deliberations at all."

Sharon said that he had told the Egyptian delegation this in the name of the prime minister, Menahem Begin. "Begin wanted to explain that the situation -- in which Jerusalem is not considered a place for meetings and talks -- would not continue," Sharon said.

ARAB PAPER SUPPORTS EGYPT'S STAND ON JERUSALEM

TA181533 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] For the first time since the signing of the Camp David accords, an east Jerusalem paper is coming out in Egypt's defense, lauding it. The pro-PLO AF-FAJR rejects Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon's criticism of Husni Mubarak on the issue of Jerusalem. The paper praises Egypt for not submitting to Israeli and U.S. pressures to support the idea of an imaginary self-administration system. A few days ago Yasir 'Arafat too lauded Husni Mubarak and expressed his confidence that Mubarak will shortly establish ties with the PLO.

BEN-ME'IR COMMENTS ON EGYPT'S AUTONOMY GOAL

TA182109 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Dr Yehuda Ben-Me'ir has said that Egypt's objective in the autonomy talks is to establish a Palestinian state while Israel's is the opposite: to prevent the establishment of such a state in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. Dr Ben-Me'ir spoke before [members of] the insurance companies union.

FOUR NEW SINAI BORDER STATIONS REPORTED

TA190809 Jerusalem POST in English 19 Mar 82 p 2

[Report by the economic reporter]

[Text] Four new border stations between Israel and Egypt will begin to operate in April, Customs Director Mordekhay Bareqet said yesterday. Towards the end of next month, a delegation of Israeli officials will go to Egypt to discuss customs procedures, with special emphasis on preventing smuggling. The main border crossing at Nizzana in northern Sinai will serve tourists going in both directions and trade between the two countries. A station at Tabah south of Elat will primarily serve vacationers going from Israel to southern Sinai, and another gate nearby will handle tourists headed to Elat and arriving by air at the 'Ezyon Airfield, which is being ceded to Egypt. Another crossing point in Rafah will be used primarily by residents of that area.

Bareqet, speaking to customs clerks attending a conference in Nahariyya, also disclosed that beginning in summer, customs officers will use x-ray equipment to examine incoming cargo and passenger baggage, in an attempt to counter smuggling. The procedure will be dopted at Ben-Gurion Airport and at Haifa and Ashdod sea ports, he said, and most likely will be operated jointly with security officers. The customs bureau also plans to establish offices in Beersheba and in the north, to guard against smuggling attempts from the Gaza Strip, Sinai and Lebanon.

U.S. SPOKESMAN DEFINES CEASE-FIRE VIOLATION

TA182013 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] The U.S. State Department spokesman has made it clear that the cease-fire agreement on the Lebanese border pertains to every action launched from Lebanese territory, even if if comes in the form of a penetration into Israel via Jordan or Syria. This is reported by our correspondent in Washington Shalom Qital.

ARENS TO RETURN FOR CONSULTATIONS EARLY APRIL

TA181037 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Mar 82 p 1

[Report from Washington by U.S. correspondent Yosef Pri'el]

[Text] Washington, (exclusive) -- Israel's ambassador to the United States, Moshe Arens, will come to Israel at the beginning of next month to hold consultations with top Foreign Ministry officials. It has been learned that the issues to be discussed will primarily pertain to personal changes in the embassy and consulates in the United States in view of the expected reshuffle scheduled for this summer, as well as some functional changes Arens has in mind regarding Israeli institutions currently operating in the United States.

SHARON EMPHASIZES IMPORTANCE OF SETTLEMENTS

TA190735 Jerusalem POST in English 19 Mar 82 p 2

[Text] Tel Aviv -- Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon asserted yesterday that "every settlement has its purpose and role in the defence of Israel; moreover, every person in the settlement has a definite role to perform in case of emergency," he said. Sharon was speaking at a joint meeting of B'nai B'rith and the Israel Zionist Council at B'nai B'rith House here.

"Not only has the role of settlements not diminished in this era of sophisticated weapons, but it is constantly increasing," Sharon added. "I can prove in every case why a settlement was set up where it was, there are no unimportant settlements," he stressed, in a remark apparently directed towards Labour Party Chairman Shim'on Peres, who has been claiming that it was possible to dispense with some settlements. Moreover, Sharon went on, Jews taking root in Judaea and Samaria "guarantee better than any document that there will be no second Palestinian state between Jordan and Israel." Such a state, if it were allowed to emerge, would be a Soviet springboard in the heart of Israel, Sharon said.

MILITARY GOVERNMENT REPORTED EXPROPRIATING LAND

TA181033 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Mar 82 pp 1, 2

[Report by Yehuda Litani]

[Excerpt] The east Jerusalem newspaper AL-QUDS reported yesterday that the Hebron military governor called the head of the Surif rural council the day before yesterday to inform him of the authorities' decision to expropriate some 20,000 dunams of land from the village. This HA'ARETZ reporter notes that this land has been declared state-owned land, and the villagers have been given 3 weeks to appeal the decision to the Military Government's appeals committees.

'ANABTA, QALQILYAH MAYORS QUESTIONED, RELEASED

TA191200 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1136 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Excerpt] [Military correspondent Shmu'el Tal -- live] Well, the mayor of 'Anabta, Wahid al-Hamdallah, who was detained and interrogated -- it appears that he violated a confinement order issued against him, an order according to which he was banned from leaving his town's territory, this because of his activity in the National Guidance Committee which had been banned. Last night he was found in the company of Qalqilyah Mayor Amin an-Nasir. The pair were hiding in the Ramallah municipality building. A petition signed by several people identified with the PLO and with the National Guidance Committee was found in the possession of the 'Anabta mayor.

The petition was addressed to the Jordanian minister for land affairs, Hasan Ibrahim, and it contained operative proposals, in quotes, as to how to deal with the heads of the village leagues in Judaea and Samaria. Also found in the possession of the mayors of 'Anabta and Qalqilyah were duplicated announcements in which they report their resignation. The announcements had been intended to become valid yesterday, but they had not been signed. As I said, the pair have been detained, interrogated and released on bail. Shmu'el Tal returning you to the studio.

NEW AL-BIRAH MUNICIPAL COUNCIL APPOINTED

TA181231 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] The Military Government has disbanded the Al-Birah Municipal Council. The disbandment order was brought to the mayor's office by a Civilian Administration employee. A council has been appointed, headed by a former administration employee, Maurice Bar Kokhba, and including other Israelis from the Civilian Administration as well. A few days ago, the Al-Birah Municipal Council refused to attend a meeting with the head of the Civilian Administration, Menahem Milson, because it boycotted the administration.

Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari notes that this is the first time Israeli officials have conducted the affairs of a Judaea and Samaria town. Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj has said that the disbandment of the Al-Birah Municipal Council is a very serious matter, and this will increase the tension in the territories. He maintains that the authorities must be interested in divesting the Arab inhabitants of any right to conduct their own affairs.

Defense Spokesman Comments

TA181347 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] The Defense Ministry spokesman has explained that the boycott imposed by the Al-Birah municipality on the Civilian Administration has severely harmed the interests of both the town and its inhabitants. The disbandment order was issued because the Al-Birah municipality has repeatedly made decisions expressing nonrecognition of the Civilian Administration and lack or readiness to discuss with it the proper functioning of the municipal council and local affairs. The Defense Ministry spokesmen therefore says that the disbandment of the local council was meant to guarantee the provision of municipal services to the inhabitants.

W. Bank Mayors React

TA181513 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Excerpts] The municipality of Al-Birah near Ramallah has been dissolved for refusing to meet with the civil governor of Judaea and Samaria, Professor Menahem Milson. In reaction, the Nabulus town council has declared a 3-day strike. With the details, Jerry Cheslow:

[Cheslow -- live] The order [dissolving the town council] was handed to Mayor Ibrahim at-Tawil by a military officer, and he was escorted out of the municipal building. In At-Tawil's place, Civil Administration official Maurice Bar-Kokhba was installed. The Defense Ministry said that the council's refusal to meet with Civil Governor Menahem Milson earlier this week, and its refusal to cooperate with the Civil Administration had harmed the town interest, and the dissolution was to ensure that the residents receive municipal services. But Ibrahim at-Tawil, who maintains that he is still the elected mayor of Al-Birah, sees it differently: [Begin At-Tawil recording] It's a step to continue and to impose the Civil Administration, of course, and the autonomy on our people. [end recording]

So far the only mayor to take a definite step in reaction to the move was Bassam Ash-Shak'ah of Nabulus: [Begin Ash-Shak'ah recording] Our council take decision strike in the municipality for 3 days, from now, in the beginning and directly. [sentence as heard] We refuse the Civilian Administration, and we still refuse it, and we shall continue against that. [end recording]

Another reaction has come in from Ilyas Frayj, mayor of Bethlehem: [Begin Frayj recording] It will increase tension in the territories, and it seems the authorities want to deny the Arab inhabitants to administer their affairs or to serve their Arab population. I will really have to wait and hear more details. [end recording]

Sharon Comments

TA190524 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon has said that there was no choice but to disband the Al-Birah Municipal Council because both the mayor and the members of the Municipal Council had put a foreign political matter ahead of the good of their town. He told our military correspondent, Shmu'el Tal, that Israel is also responsible for the safety and wellbeing of the Arab inhabitants, and therefore could not sit idle as the Al-Birah mayor and the members of the Municipal Council totally severed themselves from the Civilian Administration and harmed the local population. Minister Sharon said he hopes the disbandment of the municipal council will allow the local inhabitants to conduct a normal life and will prevent disruptions of the order in Al-Birah.

AL-BIRAH, RAMALLAH CLOSED TO JOURNALISTS

TA191139 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1135 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] Here is a report we have just received. The Military Government has closed Ramallah and Al-Birah to journalists. This report was handed in a few minutes ago by our correspondent in Judaea and Samaria, Arye Gus, who has been forced to leave Al-Birah.

JUDAEA, SAMARIA TOWNS TO BEGIN 3-DAY STRIKE

TA181816 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari has learned that the large municipalities of Judaea and Samaria have decided to strike for 3 days beginning tomorrow to protest the takeover of the Al-Birah municipality by Israeli officials. This evening the mayors and many public figures published announcements of condemnation of the disbandment of the Al-Birah Municipal Council and called for unity in the territories. Our correspondent has learned that in consultations held this afternoon between the mayors, the possibility of resignation was discussed, but it was decided not to do this and, for the moment, to be satisfied with a protest strike.

Strike Begins

TA190844 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] The protest strike staged by the Judaea and Samaria towns is actually being maintained only in Bethlehem and Ramallah, which are Christian towns. In most other towns the municipalities and the shops are closed on Friday anyway [it being the Muslim Sabbath]. The municipalities' protest strike will last 3 days, and its purpose is to protest the dissolution of the Al-Birah Municipal Council.

DISTRIBUTION OF E. JERUSALEM PAPERS BANNED 19 MAR

TA073315 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] The Military Government this morning prevented the east Jerusalem papers from being distributed in Judaea and Samaria. The newspapers' editorial boards have told our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari that the vehicles that were to have delivered the papers to the distribution points were taken this morning to the Military Government buildings in Ramallah and Bethlehem along with all copies of the newspapers.

Reasons Given

TA190812 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] The Military Government this morning prevented the east Jerusalem newspapers from being distributed throughout Judaea and Samaria. Military sources explained to our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari that the newspapers' editorial boards violated their license and failed to submit a lot of material to the military censor, including instigatory material. The AL-FAJR editor-in-chief, Ziyad Abu Ziyad, strongly denied this allegation. He told our correspondent that he had submitted for censorship every word and every announcement, adding that he is prepared to face any court on this.

DRORI COMMENTS ON DRUZE WORKERS, IDENTITY CARDS

TA181540 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] The commander of the Northern Command says that over the last week the number of Druze inhabitants carrying Israeli indentity cards has doubled. Maj Gen Amir Drori said in a talk with correspondents in the Golan Village of Mas'Adah that between 500 to 600 Druze leave the Golan for their places of work daily. About 1/3 of them work in Israel. He emphasized that the roadblocks will not be removed as long as they are needed. This morning Knesset members Yosi Sarid, Shulamit Aloni and Shevah Weiss visited the Druze villages on the Golan. They said they rejected the measures adopted against the Druze and would raise the problem in the Knesset.

PERES CRITICIZES GOLAN HEIGHTS MEASURES

TA181818 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said that it is inconceivable that Israeli Druze should be prevented from meeting with their brethren in the Golan Heights. The ban imposed on Shaykh Amin Tarif against holding a talk with Druze in the Golan Heights is as grave as a ban on a Jewish rabbi in the Soviet Union against meeting with Jews in another town. Peres was speaking at a meeting of the Labor Party Office.

FOUR DRUZE IMPRISONED FOR BEATING ID CARDHOLDER

TA191013 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] The military court in the Golan Druze village of Mas'adah has sentenced to 6 months in prison four Druze convicted of having beaten a civil servant for carrying an Israeli identity card. The four are inhabitants of Buq'ata, and among them is a father and his son. Israeli loyalists on the Golan have told our correspondent Yo'el Dar that this is the first time this warning sentence has been handed to those who stand in the way of those Druze who wish to obtain identity cards and conduct a normal life.

ALGERIA

APS: U.S. MANEUVERS AIM AT DESTABILIZING LIBYA

LD181622 Algiers APS in English 1538 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Algiers, 18 Mar (APS) -- The announcement yesterday that the American fleet is to hold new manoeuvres in the Mediterranean Gulf of Sidra later this year is a new U.S. provocation against Libya. It comes a week after the Reagan administration decision to boycott Libyan oil [words indistinct] exportation of oil products to Tripoli. Added to last August's conflict when the U.S. naval exercises in Libya's territorial waters led to the downing of two Libyan planes, these acts are a part of a project aimed at destabilizing the Libyan revolution. They confirm the planned actions deriving from Washington's militarist logic encouraging [words indistinct] somber epoch of the cold war.

The U.S. provocation, in any case, constitutes a serious threat to world peace, and could prelude to a third world war.

BEN YAHIA CITES SUPPORT FOR MEXICAN PEACE PLAN

PM181435 Algiers ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Mar 82 pp 1, 7

[Excerpt] Brother Mohamed Ben Yahia, member of the FLN Politburo and minister of foreign affairs, yesterday informed Mexican Ambassador Alfredo Fernandez de Lara that Algeria supports the peace plan proposed by Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo regarding Central America and the Caribbean.

The Mexican ambassador handed Ben Yahia the document, the implementation of which would ensure lasting peace, respect for national sovereignty and the peoples' right to self-determination.

Lopez Portillo's plan, announced in Managua on 21 February and described as the "Managua appeal," calls for mediation by Mexico to settle the existing conflicts between the United States and the two revolutionary countries in the area (Nicaragua and Cuba) on the one hand and the crisis in El Salvador on the other.

LIBYA

U.S. COULD PROVOKE BLOODSHED IN GULF OF SIDRA

LD19114 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The special forces, the revolutionary forces within the Arab nation, have the duty to incite the Arab popular masses to rise in a popular revolution so that these masses may attain authority. Otherwise, the end will be grave and tragic.

Could there be a worse end than the anninilation of the Arab entity and the destruction of the Arab nationalism so that scums of the earth would come with their foreign entity to replace the Arabs and Zionism would replace Arab nationalism?

The United States and the imperialist forces have decided to bolster the Zionist enemy not only to consolidate his occupation of the Arab territories occupied to date but also to undermine Arab nationalism. Thus, the aggression is directed against the Arab land and Arab nationalism alike.

In face of this, the old glories would be useless in checking the aggression. Unless new glories are achieved and they stand up in the face of the present aggression, the aggressors will attain their objectives against Arab nationalism.

Should our enemy succeed this time in defeating us, it will be difficult to redress the situation. For this reason, the revolutionary forces in the Arab nation should save the Arab nation from suffering another defeat and should drive the Arab masses into fighting a battle in which triumph over the enemy would be guaranteed because it would be based on the solid ground of Arab unity which devotes all capabilities of the Arab nation for the fateful war against the forces laying in wait for the Arabs with a view to annihilating them.

The United States has most arrogantly announced that it will stage war maneuvers in Arab territorial waters, waters which belong to an Arab country and constitute geographically, historically, naturally and legally an extension of its territorities. The United States would not have gone this far in taking the Arabs so lightly had it seen the Arabs united as one hand and one striking force. It would not have gone blustering in this manner against the Arab homeland and would not have aligned itself so strongly with the Zionist enemy had it known that its interests in the Arab world would be harmed.

However, it is now the duty of the Arab revolutionary forces to tell America with the language of armed forces that the arrogant American provocation will lead to a third world war because the Libyan Arab people, the free people who possess their authority, wealth and arms and who lead the special pan-Arab unitary progressive force of the Arab nation, have decided to turn the Gulf of Sidra into a red gulf with the blood of the invaders and their own blood if the U.S. administration, in its folly, should go to the extent of provoling the Libyan Jamahiriyah people within their territorial waters.

The revolutionary force, the force of life and the future of the Arab nation, should prepare itself henceforth for fighting decisive battles in defense of the Arab existence and Arab dignity, for the liberation of the occupied Arab territory and for ending the imperialist expansionist ambitions.

U.S. Maneuvers Denounced

LD182332 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 18 Mar 82

[From the "Reading in the News" program]

[Excerpts] The announcement by the U.S. secretary of the navy that the U.S. 6th Fleet will be staging maneuvers in the Gulf of Sidra during the next few months has aroused wide-scale denunciation in all Arab and international spheres.

This provocative terroristic announcement by the U.S. administration against the Arab Libyan people comes as a continuation to the terrorism U.S.-imperialsim has been pursuing against the jamahiriyah in an attempt to force the Great 1 September Revolution and its leadership to abandon their fight against U.S. imperialism and to stop exposing its plots and designs against the Arab homeland, the progressive forces and the liberation movements of the world.

The U.S. administration has begun to devote all its time to hatching plots against the jamahiriyah as the brother commander of the revolution stated in his speech at the last extraordinary session of the General People's Congress, when he said the head of the U.S. administration Reagan has nothing on his mind other than Libya and that it is his main preoccupation. The U.S. National Security Council meets only to discuss Libya and Reagan speaks of nothing but Libya.

Plotting against the jamahiriyah began to take an overt character at the beginning of last year. The New York TIMES published a two-page report about Libya and the brother commander, alleging he was connected with international terrorism. This was followed by another article in NEWSWEEK under the caption: Qadhdhafi: The Most Dangerous Man in the World.

These articles were coupled with an information campaign that was joined by some of the Western information media to poison the atmosphere internationally against the jamahiriyah and to pave the ground for an aggression by the U.S. administration against it. NEWSWEEK disclosed a plan prepared by the CIA to destroy the Great 1 September Revolution and its commander.

IRAN PLEDGES SUPPORT AGAINST U.S. AGGRESSION

LD181524 Tripoli JANA in English 1430 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Tehran, 18 Mar (JANA) -- Mr. 'Ali Tabataba'i, spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Office, this morning announced that Iran pledges support for her brothers in the jamahiriyah against the expected U.S. military aggressive move in the Libyan Gulf of Sidra. The spokesman told our correspondent that Iran strongly denounces the U.S. military manoeuvres in the Libyan territorial waters and considers them as hostile policy aims to subjugate the countries of the Mediterranean basin.

AL-QADHDHAFI ASKS KREISKY TO MEDIATE WITH U.S.

PM191023 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 20-26 Mar 82 p 10

[From the "AL-MAJALLAH correspondents" feature]

[Excerpt] Informed diplomatic sources in Vienna have confirmed to AL-MAJALLAH that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has asked Austrian Chancellor Kreisky to mediate between him and the United States and a number of West European states. Al-Qadhdhafi's move is seen as an attempt to break the Libyan regime's international isolation.

The sources say this is not the first time that Al-Qadhdhafi has sought mediation between him and the United States. He previously asked Yugoslavia, Turkey and other states to mediate but these mediations failed and Libya's relations with the United States remain tense as a result of the colonel's policies and actions aimed at destabilizing the Middle East and Africa.

The sources also say that Kreisky will mediate although he already knows that his mediation will fail.

COLONEL AL-QADHDHAFI MEETS WITH STUDENTS 18 MAR

LD182300 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Within the framework of his tour to enhance the movement of the revolutionary committees, the brother commander today met with the students of all schools and secondary educational institutions in the areas of Al Khums and (Zlaytah).

During his meetings with the students, the commander affirmed the need to widen the base of the revolutionary committees to bring in new revolutionary forces and thus widen the movement of the revolutionary committees and bolster their role.

He also affirmed the importance of forming a pan-Arab revolutionary wide movement with the task of inciting the popular masses in the Arab homeland and staging a popular revolution to settle the battle once and for all in the interest of the masses that are absent from the battle and whose absence has enable the Zionist enemy to advance in the Arab arena without meeting any resistance, supported in his advance by American imperialism which has been using the reactionary agent regimes as a bridge over which the enemy passes and advances through the Arab arena.

The brother commander said the reactionary regimes have proven their bankruptcy. They have enabled the Zionist enemy to advance and penetrate internally without doing anything to check his advance and penetration. He also warned of a genuine threat to the Arab nation.

The brother commander affirmed the need for the masses to assume authority so that they can check the enemy and keep the threat away from this nation. He said the value of life lies in man's enjoyment of true freedom with a high sense of morality, affirming the freedom of the masses.

The commander laid on the shoulders of the revolutionary forces in the Arab homeland the task of blowing up all the tragedies and contradictions that cloud the skies of the Arab homeland, stressing the Arab nation is a great nation and the farce taking place is not taking place with its free will but through the rigging of its will. This nation, he said, needs someone to revive its will. In this regard, the commander affirmed the role of the revolutionary committees in the Arab arena. He pointed out that the popular masses in the Arab homeland have alone endured losses because of the actions of the agent reactionary regimes and the advance and penetration of the enemy with the support of the United States. The commander said 150 million Arabs are absent from the battle and are relying on a handful of regular soldiers.

In his meetings with the students, the commander affirmed the role of the Great 1 September Revolution. He said Libya is the springboard for the revolutionary work; it is the staunch Arab fortress and the Arab center for bolstering the movement of the Arab man.

MOROCCO

BOUCETTA LAUDS EXPULSION OF SAHARAN DELEGATION

LD190040 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] In a statement to the French paper, LE MATIN, the Moroccan minister of state in charge of foreign affairs, M'hamed Boucetta, emphasized that Senegal made the right decision in expelling the so-called Saharan delegation from the OAU meeting in Dakar. He stressed Morocco's concern for respecting and upholding the law.

Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Abdelhaq Tazi received African and West European ambassadors to Morocco. He explained Morocco's positive stand toward the critical developments within the OAU through recent acts of trickery carried out by the administrative secretary general of the organization in Addis Ababa.

HASSAN RECEIVES TUNISIA'S MZALI, PRAISES TIES

LD190018 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Excerpt] King Hassan II received Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali at the royal court in Rabat this morning, Thursday, 18 March. The meeting lasted 75 minutes.

King Hassan II later chaired an extended working meeting attended by Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali, Abdelaziz Lasram, minister of national economy; Fredj Chedli, minister of national education; Mohamed Kraien, minister of youth and sports; and Tunisian Ambassador to Morocco Salahaddin Abdallah on the Tunisian side; His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed; Prime Minister Maati Bouabid; M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs; Azzedine Laraki, minister of national education; Mohamed Kabbaj, minister of supplies; Mohamed Awad, his majesty's adviser; and his majesty's ambassador to Tunisia, Mohamed Tazi, on the Moroccan side.

During the session, Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali expressed profound thanks to His Majesty King Hassan II and his government for the spirit of contribution and cooperation which he found at all levels during the official working visit to the Kingdom of Morocco. He expressed his satisfaction at the exemplary relations linking the two countries and his pleasure at the positive outcome achieved by Tunisian-Moroccan cooperation in all fields, including economic, social and cultural, in implementation of the definite will and wise directives of the leaders of the two fraternal countries -- His Majesty King Hassan II and His Excellency the great struggler Habib Bourguiba.

King Hassan II then expressed his satisfaction and pleasure at the mutual respect and esteem characterizing Tunisian-Moroccan relations. He praised His Excellency the great struggler Habib Bourguiba, his great role in establishing these relations and expressed his strong concern about developing and continuing them. His majesty specifically praised the personal role of Mohamed Mzali and his deep conviction in the necessity for understanding and cooperation among the countries of the great Arab Maghreb. Mzali was able to crystalize the wish of the great struggler Habib Bourguiba to strengthen relations and to endeavor to consolidate them by firm practical steps as soon as he assumed leadership.

Finally, Mohamed Mzali, as chairman of the international committee for the Mediterranean games, stressed again the desire expressed (?previously) that his majesty (?allow) His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed to assume chairmanship of the committee organizing the ninth session of the Mediterranean games to be held in Morocco. His majesty kindly responded by appointing His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed chairman of that committee. His royal highness will begin his duties by participating in the committee meeting at 1100 Friday morning, 19 March. His majesty provided His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed with his wise directives and rich advice and urged him to carry out his responsibilities fully and satisfactorily.

Following the meeting, the Tunisian prime minister made a statement to journalists:

[Begin recording] It was a refreshing and pleasurable meeting during which I conveyed the fraternal message from His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba to His Majesty King Hassan II. During this meeting, I also expressed to his majesty the Tunisian delegation's gratitude and appreciation for the hospitality we found in Morocco and for the positive outcome of the visit regarding bilateral cooperation between Tunisia and Morocco in all fields. This is included in the joint communique which will be published (?later). [end recording]

TUNISIAN MINISTER ON NUCLEAR PROJECT WITH KUWAIT

LD181744 Kuwait KUNA in English 1559 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Rabat, 18 Mar (KUNA) -- Kuwait and Tunisia will set [up] a joint nuclear research centre, a visiting Tunisian minister disclosed here Thursday.

The studies relating to the project are now complete and will shortly be presented to the two governments, the Tunisian Economic Minister Abdelaziz Lasram told KUNA.

The project is to enable the utilization of energy for peaceful purposes and to attract Arab scientists and researchers. The centre, which will be established in a location still to be determined, is part of a coordination plan between the two states in chemical industries.

While Tunisia will provide the project's requirements for phosphate and uranium, Kuwait will make available its chemical products.

BRIEFS

URANIUM PRODUCTION -- Rabat, 18 Mar (MAP) -- In the very near future, Morocco will be a uranium-producing country, reports the Moroccan paper MOROC-SOIR on Wednesday. The first uranium production unit will be operational in Safi in 1984, the daily points out, adding that this unit, once operational, will produce 200 tons of uranium annually. MOROC-SOIR also points out that when all the units producing phosphoric acid at Safi are working at full capacity, they will produce 600 tons of uranium annually. With the building of Maroc-Phosphore III and IV -- the foundation of which was laid by King Hassan II -- and the establishment of phosphoric acid units, the Jorf Lasfar complex (El Jadida) will be able to supply in its turn 600 tons of uranium annually. Thus, Morocco will be producing 1,200 tons of uranium annually, the paper concludes. [Rabat MAP in French 1800 GMT 18 Mar 82 LD]

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

REGIME EMERGES STRONGER FROM PATASSE EPISODE

AB181707 Paris AFP in English 1654 GMT 18 Mar 82

[By Jean-Eudes Barbier]

[Text] Bangui, March 18 (AFP) -- The Central African Republic's military regime has emerged strengthened from this month's attempted coup d'etat and the subsequent tussle with the French Government over opposition leader Ange Patasse.

General Andre Kolingba's government responded to the March 3 coup bid by, among other things, outlawing Mr Patasse's Central African People's Liberation Movement (MLPC).

While the Military Committee of National Recovery did not succeed in securing the extradition of Mr Patasse, who is in refuge in the French Embassy here, it has used the situation to neutralise the Patasse-led opposition.

Some 60 MLPC officials who held administrative or economic posts in the state machine have been arrested and will be replaced by "safe elements", according to reliable sources here.

There has not been any reaction in the reputedly pro-Patasse poor quarters in the north of Bangui to this crackdown.

Sources in Gen. Kolingba's entourage say the MLPC is still reeling under the shock of what has happened and that it has been reduced to silence for a long time to come.

Last March, Mr Patasse gained 38 per cent of the vote in a presidential election against the incumbent David Dacko, who was returned with 50 per cent, according to the official figures.

(Mr Dacko was overthrown by Gen. Kolingba in September.)

Rid of the MLPC, the military regime now intends to devote itself to what has always been its main aim: To restore to health the Central African economy, which is in a very poor state.

It is from this aspect too that Gen Kolingba appears to have strengthened his authority, for in this he can now count upon greater support from the French authorities.

French backing for the military regime, circumspect until the events of the beginning of this month, appears to have been at the centre of bargaining over Mr Patasse.

Gen. Kolingba ended up by no longer insisting on Mr Patasse's extradition as some of his entourage had been demanding, but which the French Government found unacceptable, and agreed he be allowed to seek exile in another country.

In exchange the French authorities promised to look more kindly on the regime, politically as well as economically.

Gen. Kolingba was thus able to convince his colleagues of the need to make a deal with France, whose annual aid to Central Africa is roughly equivalent to two-thirds of its former colony's total budget, reliable sources said.

On the continental level, the general can, the sources say, count on support, if not cooperation, from the heads of neighbouring states: Mobuto Sese Seko in Zaire, Omar Bongo in Gabon and Ahmadou Ahidjo in Cameroon.

Several African states consulted by France to see if they be prepared to accept Mr Patasse have refused outright, and it is said that the French attitude in the affair has not been appreciated in African ruling circles.

Many African leaders say that Mr Patasse should be tried in his country and that France has no business to stand in the way. They also suspect the ruling French Socialist Party of seeking to maintain a "double talk" over Africa.

Whatever the case, the undoubted successes wrought by Gen. Kolingba in recent days should allow him to consolidate his authority in order to work for the cohesion of his regime and meet the economic challenge.

At the same time, the military rulers will have to overcome ethnic rivalries and not allow themselves to be surprised by outbreaks of violence if they want to achieve their aim.

CHAD

KAMOUGUE SUGGESTS POLITICAL SOLUTION TO CRISIS

AB171314 Paris AFP in French 0945 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Ndjamena, 17 Mar (AFP) -- The vice president of the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT], Col Wadal Abdel Kader Kamougue, has said that "the permanent committee" does not advocate negotiations with Hissein Habre but rather suggests another solution to the Chadian crisis dismissing "any secessionist or federalist inclinations attributed" to the populations of the south.

During a press conference which was, according to Colonel Kamougue, aimed at explaining the "program" for "a global political solution" which the permanent committee, the administrative body of the south, presented to the government, the vice president of the GUNT added: "Whether we like it or not, the Chadian problem is first and foremost political." "Chad is a vast country and there will always be pockets of resistance with whom we will have to negotiate, even if the GUNT "one day triumphs over the rebellion," Colonel Kamougue explained, affirming that they did not have to "minimize the opponent."

Defending the position of the permanent committee of which he is the chairman, Colonel Kamougue affirmed that this body supports the GUNT, and as such supports the government in its decision to never negotiate with Hissein Habre. However, in addition to the military operations on the battlefield, the GUNT should plan for a process which will lead to free and democratic elections in Chad.

The vice president dismissed "any secessionist and federalist inclinations attributed" to the populations of the south. The decision on the future form of the Chadian state belongs to the government and not to a region, he added.

Recalling the situation in Ndjamena, Colonel Kamougue regretted that there is "a controversial climate within the GUNT, which complicates the government's task." Shifting the responsibility of this "climate" to "those who maintain it on purpose" or "those who use the machinery and structures of the government for selfish ends."

"It is probably true that it is the leaders of the factions who obstruct the government," said Colonel Kamougue for whom "the political life of Chad is at a standstill." This political situation calls for a reshuffle within the GUNT, the vice president said, stressing that if the present government is "technically viable," there exists "antagonism." There should be a government which is "committed," "coherent," and if "the leaders of the factions have to disappear, all the better," he added.

He concluded by assuring the Chadian Armed Forces [FAT] are fighting side by side with other government forces taking part in the military operations on the battlefield. He, however, added that they should "have a little more confidence in the FAT by giving it adequate military means".

CONGO

MINISTER ON SENEGAL EXPULSION OF SDAR DELEGATES

AB171358 Paris AFP in French 1300 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Brazzaville, 17 Mar (AFP) -- "Senegal's action, in our view, constitutes a flagrant injustice and a deliberate violation of the OAU organizational principles." This was stated on Tuesday by Congolese Information Minister Maj Florent Tsiba following the expulsion of the SDAR delegation by the Senegalese authorities from the conference of the African information ministers on the PAN-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY in Dakar.

"Like the 14 countries which withdrew in protest," the Congolese minister stressed, "Congo's presence at the meeting is no longer justified."

"By inviting the SDAR to this conference, the OAU General Secretariat simply did its duty," the minister went on. He also stated: "In these circumstances, Senegal, as the host country, had and has to be neutral... and could not, in any case, prevent the entry of another country's delegation into its territory, despite the fact that it has not yet established particular relations with that state."

GHANA

COMMENTARY VIEWS AGRARIAN UNDERDEVELOPMENT

AB171840 Accra Domestic Service in English 1407 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Station commentary on "Let the People Know" program: "Agrarian Underdevelopment in Ghana"]

[Text] After 25 years of political independence, we are again making fresh attempts at nation building in this country. Up till now, the basic arrangements of our society have made it impossible for the needs of the majority of our people to be satisfied. It is of utmost necessity that we examine critically the present social and economic structures of our country in order to find out how best we can transform them fundamentally and achieve the most satisfactory results.

Today, we want to begin looking at some aspects of agriculture, our major economic activity in Ghana. Immediately, two very striking features stare us in the face. On the one hand, there is a relative shortage of food coupled with very high prices of foodstuffs, especially in our urban areas and, on the other hand, there is a large stock of cocoa locked up in various parts of the country which is now being evacuated to the ports for export. These two features illustrate the unsatisfactory development of agriculture in this country despite seeming improvement like the introduction of a modern machinery and large-scale farms in recent times. The features reveal that our priority in economic activity is the production of cocoa as a cash crop to meet the demands of foreign firms and factories. Food production to satisfy the basic feeding requirements of our own people seems to be secondary when one considers the actual attention paid to it by previous governments, lip service apart. The production of raw materials for our own factories and industries is even further down the scale.

If we look far back in our history, we shall observe that the process of agrarian underdevelopment began hundreds of years ago. This can point to the era of the slave trade during which there was a forcible removal of hundreds of thousands of strong men, women and children from this part of west Africa we now call Ghana. There was also the destruction of thousands of people in the slave wars of that period. The slave trade and slave wars led to a serious loss of manpower for the later development of our country, the effect of which persists till today. For instance, a clear evidence of the terrible slavery activities is the relative lack of people in what is called the middle belt of West Africa, part of which lies within the present northern and upper regions of Ghana.

But we need not go back far into our history to examine the problem under review. We shall concern ourself more with the period since the colonial rulers settled down to control and administer this country in a systematic way. Under colonialism, the internally coherent local economies of the area now comprising Ghana were dismantled. The subsistence economies the colonial rulers met were changed into an increasingly unified but externally oriented economy. Our people were gradually made to produce mainly for export to the countries of Western Europe and to import their needs from there. The colonialists -- we must not forget -- were moved by pressing social and economic needs of their societies arising from their levels of development to venture into our land. These white people needed raw materials for their expanding factories and external markets for their manufactured goods. They wanted to make more and higher profits than previously and to obtain resources to offset social crises in their home countries. So, the colonialists, who dominated us systematically, reshaped our economy to suit the needs of the world capitalist system in which they played the leading role and out of which they profited immensely. Due to this reshaping of our economy, production and consumption were no longer internally integrated but became dependent on external interests. Thus, at a most fundamental level, our economy was subjected to the whims and caprices of those that played a leading role in the world capitalist system.

In the then Gold Coast, in line with the world wide division of labor and specialization in their favor, the colonialists encouraged the production of cocoa as the major agricultural raw material or cash crop. All kinds of incentives as well as punitive measures were used to get out people to grow more cocoa. For example, the introduction of taxes led to a lot of our people moving from subsistence agriculture to cash crop production or commercial activities. The Aburi botanical garden, which is used as a tourist resort today, was set up in 1890 as an experimental station for tropical crops as part of British efforts to structure farming in her colonies to meet her own needs. In its early days, the botanical garden was used as a cocoa tree nursery for the purpose of supplying low cost seedings to farmers. So intense were the efforts of the British to develop cocoa as the major cash crop in the Gold Coast that success was almost immediate. By the beginning of the present century, cocoa began to outstrip gold in our foreign exchange earnings and has remained so till today.

During the colonial period too, there was very little industrial activity. In the main, there was mining and later a few processing industries. But again, these were carried on to meet the raw material needs of Western Europe. The few processing industries were dependent on external sources for major inputs and had little impact on production with the general economy. Thus under colonialism, the exploitation and plunder of our resources was systematized and gradually intensified over the years, leading to a process of underdevelopment. The factors created made impossible the operation of a viable integrated national economy. Apart from a whole array of institutions of the colonial state, there was the creation of new social groups dependent on foreign interests and, therefore, ready to supervise and defend those interests even when the white rulers left our shores.

Unfortunately, the structures created by the colonial rulers to serve their interests remain today with very little changes even though we are said to be politically independent. Indeed, the process of our underdevelopment has continued and intensified since independence. Our economy is still structurally shaped to serve foreign economic, political and strategic interests. It is dominated and exploited from outside through various means. That is what we mean when we say Ghana is a neocolony or a country dominated by imperialism.

Let us briefly look at the cocoa industry to illustrate the foregoing assertion. A lot of the time, because cocoa is our major foreign exchange earner, a number of people call for the utmost attention to be paid to it without critically assessing who benefits most from the toil of our farmers or whether the efforts we put into cocoa production will yield higher results if put elsewhere. At the global level, the biggest profits in the cocoa industry are made by the big transnational companies and dealers and not the biggest producers like Ghana, the Ivory Coast and Brazil. The companies which benefit most are the chocolate and other cocoa products makers like Nestle of Switzerland, Cadbury of Britain, Roundtree Mackintosh also of Britain and Healthy Foods of the United States. The big dealers include (Drill and Dudfors) Limited of London, A.C. Israel and J.H. Reyner both of the United States. All these companies operate in many countries apart from their home country.

Cocoa production, despite its importance, is not integrated into the Ghanaian economy. We produce cocoa mainly as a raw material for export. Apart from our inability to develop industries on the basis of cocoa production, we are open to fluctuating prices of cocoa on the world market. These prices we do not determine in the first place even though the product is ours. In real terms, we have been making declining revenues from cocoa exports. When the operation of the cocoa industry as a whole is examined, what comes out is that despite the fact that cocoa is cultivated by indigenous peasants in Ghana and that cocoa is bought and marketed by a Ghanaian agency, the industry is dominated by foreign interests.

In effect, our peasants and cocoa officials are nothing more than workers of the transnational companies. The point is that we need to carry on trade with the external world by all means for those needs of ours which cannot be produced internally. But the present form of relationship undermines our development. It is really a process through which we are impoverished. And, because of the emphasis on cash crop production for export, little attention is paid to food crops and raw materials for domestic industries.

Apart from these, there are developments which give evidence of the increasing subjection of our agriculture to foreign interests. First, there is a growing intrusion of foreign companies into agriculture. These foreign companies and banks are setting up farms or participating in joint agricultural projects all over the country. Encouraging the big foreign companies to move into farming is not bad for a state but what we have to consider is whether these companies are really going to help us in that field judging by the historical record of their activities. Are these companies here for our interest as a people or for their profit? Are they going to produce the needs of Ghanaians or for export to foreign lands? These are the questions we should consider.

Another noticeable trend is the growing role of the international financial situations like the World Bank and the international development association and economic groupings like the Furopean Economic Community. The Upper Region Development Corporation [URDEC] project in the Upper Region, for example, is a World Bank project. A critical observation will show that the projects of those bodies are designed to find new and cheaper sources of raw materials for the West, provide markets for their commodities and, in general, are part of plans to stabilize world capitalism and prices. There is also the increasing dependence on foreign inputs and foreign advisers in agriculture in Ghana today. We import machinery, fertilizers, seeds, pesticides and other inputs for food and cash crop production. We are in no position to determine the prices of these inputs and so, as the years go by, the rise in the prices of these imported inputs lead to relatively smaller incomes from our productive efforts. The foreign advisers and so-called experts have not worked any magic for us so far even though they are paid fantastic sums in foreign exchange. It is on record, for example, that each expatriate recruited through the World Bank loan for the URDEC project costs not less than $210,000 tax-free for the first 3 years of duty.

By and large, the total picture of agriculture in Ghana shows an overall control by foreign interests. What we actually see is an acute process of agrarian underdevelopment as our peasants grow poorer and dispossessed of their land. Our nation gets more and more impoverished with little food for our people. This is a process we must arrest with the new plans that we make. The point has been made that we cannot claim to be politically independent when our national resources are controlled and determined by foreign interests, especially in the important area of food for the people.

GUINEA-BISSAU

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION ANNOUNCED FOR 9 MAY

AB181035 Conakry Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Communique issued 17 March by Guinean Democratic Party Political Bureau -- all numbers as heard]

[Text] The Political Bureau of the Guinean Democratic Party held a working session from 1300-1530 on 17 March 1982 under the distinguished chairmanship of the comrade secretary general of the party and supreme leader of the revolution, President Ahmed Sekou Toure. During the meeting, the National Political Bureau thoroughly examined various problems presented by the supreme leader of the revolution, discussed the timetable of party activities after due consideration of the numberous internal and external obligations of the party secretary general, President Ahmed Sekou Toure, and adopted the following decisions.

I. Presidential election:

A. Date of the election: In accordance with the decisions of the National Council of the Revolution adopted during the council's 50th session, a presidential election by direct universal suffrage will take place throughout the national territory on Sunday, 9 May 1982.

B. Solemn proclamation of the results of the election: The results of the election will be solemnly proclaimed by the Popular Constitutional Council on Thursday, 13 May 1981, at 1600 before the Popular Constitutional Assembly comprising:

1. The members of the Central Committee;
2. The members of the government;
3. The members of the People's National Assembly;
4. The general commissioners of the revolution;
5. The members of the national workers, women's and youth organizations;
6. Regional governors;
7. The members of the armed forces general staff;
8. The chairmen and deputy chairmen of the regional people's assemblies.

III. Solemn inauguration of the president of the republic: The official ceremonies of inauguration of the elected president will take place on Friday, 14 May 1982, beginning at 1500 at the 28 September Stadium.

II. Date of the forthcoming sessions of the regional councils of the revolution: These sessions will take place on 1 and 2 May 1982 in accordance with the directives of the National Council of the Revolution.

III. Date of the meeting of the Central Committee in Gueckedou: The Central Committee will hold its next meeting in Gueckedou on 21 May 1982.

IV. National cultural festival: Following the report presented by Comrade Mamadou Keita, chairman of the Cultural Commission of the Central Committee, the National Political Bureau -- having approved this report -- decided that the national cultural festival will take place from 13-22 November 1982.

V. Issuing of supplies to the regional workers' cooperatives and the diamond miners: The National Political Bureau listened to a report by the minister of internal trade and adopted decisions concerning the issuing of supplies to the regional workers' cooperatives and the diamond miners.

The meeting ended at 1530. Ready for the revolution!

Conakry, 17 Mar 1982

[Signed] Senainon Behanzin, secretary of the National Political Bureau

GOVERNMENT UPGRADES PLO STATUS TO EMBASSY LEVEL

JN161816 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Mar 82

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of Guinea-Bissau has announced that it has decided to raise Palestinian diplomatic representation to embassy level. A Foreign Ministry circular informed diplomatic and consular missions, international organizations and liberation movements represented in Guinea-Bissau of this decision.

In its circular, the Foreign Ministry said: In view of our recognizing the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, it will enjoy all rights stemming from this recognition. Thus, the PLO will be represented by an ambassador.

MOZAMBIQUE

MACHEL DESCRIBES WESTERN ECONOMIC BLOCKADE

EA181212 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 18 Mar 82

[From the "In Focus" program]

[Text] Imperialism has subtly mounted an undeclared economic blockade against our country because we do not accept others making decisions for us, President Samora Machel said this morning at the opening session of the party national conference in Maputo.

The supreme leader of the Mozambique revolution added: We are the victims of blackmail by some Western capitalist countries because we do not belong to certain economic and financial organizations controlled by them. He then stressed that following this imperialist action we must close our party ranks, reinforce our ideological unity to make it impermeable to subversion and stop the vaccilation and hesitation among us.

In his speech, the president of Frelimo and the People's Republic of Mozambique denounced the aggressive imperialist action now targeted at our revolution, an action directed against our sovereignty, our determination to maintain our dignity, our personality and our honor as a free people.

Imperialism, the president said, through its vanguard South Africa, sends armed gangsters against us, recruited, financed, trained, armed and supplied by them. Armed gangsters are bandits who resort to primitive and barbarous methods -- methods of vandalism similar to those of the Boer terrorists who protect them -- similar to the methods of the fascist Nazis. They are bandits who sow disorder and insecurity among our people, kidnapping, murdering and mutilating our citizens. They are bandits who pillage and destroy people's property, shops, cooperatives and granaries. They are bandits who steal herds of cattle, bandits who make barbarity an instrument of aggression against our people, party and state.

President Machel said the people express their hatred for the bandits and show themselves ready to eliminate them.

The conference was convened by decision of the ninth session of the Frelimo Central Committee with the main objective being to discuss in a broad meeting of militants and party cadres preparations for the party fourth congress in all its organizational aspects.

According to the supreme leader of the Mozambique revolution, the national party conference is attended by party members, cadres from all activity sectors at the level of central and provincial structures, workplaces and residences. It also is attended by the heads of mass democratic organizations, the armed forces, police and security forces.

According to President Machel, the Central Committee decided to involve -- as well as Central Committee members -- other cadres and militants tried and tested in the practice of party life and decisions in aspects connected with the fourth congress.

The convening of the conference by the Central Committee is proof of the creativity of our party in trying to find correct solutions to the problems arising in every phase of party organization. It is proof that our party is not static. Our party always strives for concrete reality. It knows how to incorporate the particular and general in order to better lead the building of socialism in our country. It can also respond to the requirements of the dialectic of our revolutionary process, the supreme leader of the Mozambique revolution said.

SOUTH AFRICA

PRIME MINISTER REACTS TO KAUNDA OFFER TO TALK

LD182204 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Excerpt] The South African prime minister, Mr Pieter Botha, has commented on reports that the Zambian president wants to meet him to discuss what Dr Kaunda describes as the potentially explosive developments in the African subcontinent. Interviewed in Cape Town, Mr Botha said that judging from reports concerning Dr Kaunda's remarks he was not correctly informed on conditions in South Africa. He took note, however, of the Zambian leaders reported remarks on the possibility of a meeting between them. He said the South African Government had always been willing to discuss matters of common interest with leaders of other countries.

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH ZIMBABWE EXTENDED

LD181730 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] The preferential trade agreement between South Africa and Zimbabwe due to expire on Wednesday [24 March] has been extended until further notice. The South African minister of industries, commerce and tourism, Dr David de Villiers, says discussions between representatives of both governments have taken place and methods to alleviate the problems which gave rise to the notice of termination of the agreement are now being considered. It is anticipated that, after consultations with private sector interests in South Africa and Zimbabwe, further discussions will be held.

ZAMBIA

KAUNDA OFFERS TO MEET WITH BOTHA, CABINET

AB181920 Paris AFP in English 1834 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Lusaka, March 18 (AFP) -- President Kaunda of Zambia has said he would be prepared to meet South African Prime Minister Pieter Botha and his Cabinet to discuss developments in the southern African sub-continent.

The president described developments engulfing the sub-continent as "potentially explosive" in an interview at State House yesterday with a South African journal.

In the interview Mr Kaunda said, "Catastrophe is coming to South Africa and if the lid does not blow off, we will all get burnt." The inevitable explosion would make the French revolution "look like a children's Sunday picnic," he added.

In August 1975 President Kaunda met former South African Premier John Vorster and former Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith at the Victoria Falls bridge in a move aimed at finding a solution to the Rhodesian independence impasse.

He told the South African journalist that white South Africans had turned racists because of their fear of the black majority. He assured South Africa that none of the frontline states or nationalist leaders wanted to see whites swept into the sea.

However, the Zambian leader said the principles laid down by African nations which signed the Lusaka Manifesto, a guideline on liberation struggles in southern Africa, still applied. "we still condemn apartheid and there can be no compromise on that", he said.

The Lusaka Manifesto of 1969 viewed South Africa as an independent state but called for the total elimination of that country's apartheid system which excluded the black majority from direct participation in the government.

President Kaunda raised the possibility of meeting Mr Botha when he was asked if he thought the current Western initiative on Namibia was losing momentum. He said: "I wish I could meet Mr Botha and his Cabinet to tell them that they are making a mistake over Namibia. SWAPO says it is ready to meet them face to face. We are ready to meet them also."

The meeting, he said, would not be in a spirit of confrontation but to help them see "how we see things." Such a meeting must not be held in secret, Mr Kaunda said, "it must be open because there is nothing to hide". [Words indistinct] Johannesburg as a venue. he said: "I have not thought about that, but if invited I would think about that."

In suggesting a meeting with Botha, he was pointing to the growing feeling that it was too late to avoid violence in South Africa. He said it was a great pity that White South Africans sometimes made what he described as "colossal mistakes, gigantic errors of judgement."

He told the journalist of the Johannesburg newspaper the STAR: "SWAPO merely wants to be non-aligned. Angola has only got Cubans there because it feels threatened by South Africa."

SOUTH AFRICAN INCURSION INTO ANGOLA CONDEMNED

AB180943 Paris AFP in English 0926 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Lusaka, 18 Mar (AFP) -- Zambia has condemned South Africa's incursion into southern Angola last weekend and appealed to the international community to help the Angolans resist military action by Pretoria.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said last night that Zambia viewed the South African raid with "grave concern." South Africa did not want peace to prevail in southern Africa, he said.

Pretoria said the raid by its troops was against a forward camp of the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO), which is fighting South African rule in Namibia.

KAUNDA ADDRESSES CLERGYMEN ON PARTY DIRECTION

CA181930 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Excerpt] President Kaunda has said that a decision has not been made to give the party a Marxist ideology and stressed that if ever such a decision were to be reached, it would have to be extensively debated within the leadership and among the people.

Dr Kaunda has also stated that it is the intention of the party and its government to introduce scientific socialism in all schools but stressed that this subject, repeat: stressed that this subject, will not in any way replace religious education.

The president made these assurances in an address lasting more than 2 hours when he officially opened a humanism seminar for church leaders at Lusaka's Mulungushi Pool today.

Dispelling fears expressed by many clergymen that the nation was drifting toward Marxism-Leninism at the expense of religion, Dr Kaunda emphasized that the party and its government regard religious organizations and their leaders as important instruments of the party in the road toward humanism.